

corresponding figures for unemployment was 10.84 million. Unemployment rate has marginally increased from 2.2% in 1999-2000 to 2.3% in 2004-05. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) came in to operation with effect from the financial year 2005-06 and therefore, its impact on employment and unemployment situation in the survey conducted in 2004-05 is not reflected.

Job loss due to economic recession

240. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of workers lost their jobs in recession and collapse of World Economy;
- (b) whether stimulative package given by the Government to industrial houses has really worked and benefitted to industries to protect the workers; and
- (c) if so, how many workers lost the jobs and how many of them could be really protected by the stimulative package?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) According to quarterly quick surveys conducted by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment in selected sectors it was observed that the employment declined by 4.91 lakh during the quarter October-December, 2005; increased by 2.76 lakh during January-March, 2009; again declined by 1.31 lakh during April-June, 2009 probably due to seasonality; and increased by 4.97 lakh during the quarter July-September, 2009. Thus overall estimated employment in the selected sectors has experienced a net addition of 1.51 lakh during the last one year period *i.e.* from October, 2008 to September, 2009.

To mitigate the adverse effect of the economic slowdown the Government of India has taken various fiscal and monetary measures including three stimulus packages, implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured workers and his family are entitled for 50% of wages up to a period one year and medical benefits in the case of loss of jobs, schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, skill upgradation and vocational training programmes and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. These measures have broadly succeeded in mitigating the adverse impact of economic slowdown and protecting the interests of workers.

ESIC medical colleges

241. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) what is the progress of ESIC medical colleges proposed and sanctioned;