

(c) Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc., Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) beside entrepreneurial programme run by M/o Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

Labour laws for small and medium enterprises

243. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises are pressing for simpler labour laws meant for this sector as it is not possible for micro and small units with minimal resources to adhere the multiple labour laws;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the small units show lack of infrastructure to implement all the labour laws and make it difficult for entrepreneurs to start business or run them successfully; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been requesting for simplification of labour laws. However, the very purpose of labour laws, dealing with wages, social security, labour welfare, occupational safety & health, industrial relations etc., is to protect the interests of workers, especially those who are vulnerable to exploitation. Hence, these laws need to be applied to the micro, small and medium enterprises to the extent they are covered under the respective Acts.

Unusual increase in withdrawals from PF

244. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an unusual increase in withdrawals from provident fund in the fiscal 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The comparative figures of withdrawal cases from the Provident Fund for the fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below: