

(c) and (d) The Government has announced stimulus packages in the form of development assistance, tax concession etc. to counter economic slowdown and promote growth which would be beneficial to the entire economy including the working class.

Minimum wages for women and children

3629. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in many States of the country the minimum wages is different for women and children;
- (b) if so, whether child labour banned in Hazardous Industries and Equal Remuneration Act is prevailing in our country;
- (c) whether the Government is fixing different wages for males and females; and
- (d) whether Central Government will issue guidelines for giving equal wages for male and female workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The minimum rates of wages fixed by the appropriate Government in respect of scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are equally applicable to men and women. However, under the provisions of the Act, the appropriate Government can fix different minimum rates of wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices.

(b) to (d) Employment of child labour is prohibited in 16 occupations and 65 processes which are hazardous in nature and have been included in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 is in force in the country which provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature. Hence issuing separate guidelines is not necessary.

Creation of new ITIS and polytechnics

3630. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) faced with resource crunch for creating new educational centres such as NTs, IIMs and NIFTs at enormous cost, whether Government has put skill development on focus through creation of more ITIs and polytechnics;

(b) whether Government has targeted to create 500 million skilled workforce by 2022; and

(c) whether unlike educational centres like IITs, IIMs, NIFTs which attract private sector investments, the skill development areas like ITIs and polytechnics have no other option than to seek to public sector allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Skill Development is on the focus of the Government during XI Five Year Plan. National policy on skill development has also envisaged skilling 500 million persons by 2022. Depending on the skill requirement of economy; Government has taken initiatives for setting up of more ITIs and Polytechnics under PPP mode.

(c) At present there are 2133 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with a seating capacity of 4.32 lakh and 5906 Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) in the private sector with seating capacity of 6.83 lakh in the country as on 1.4.2010. Thus, the private sector participation in skill development is over 74% in terms of number of institutes and in seating capacity, private participation is over 61%. Institutes in Public Private Partnership (PPP) are to be promoted to establish greater link with industry and in order to ensure employment.

Report on Wage Board for Journalists

3631. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wage Board constituted by his Ministry was likely to submit its report by May, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Wage Board is not likely to submit its report in May, 2010 as per the announcement made by him;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(e) by when it is likely to be submitted and implemented in view of continuous price rise and financial stress on poor journalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (e) The Wage Boards have been given three years to submit their reports *i.e.* by 23rd May, 2010 *vide* Notifications dated 3rd July, 2007 and the Wage Boards are presently