

After the emigration clearance has been granted, details of these house-maids, along with the names and addresses of the employers are made available to the Indian Missions. There is no proposal to constitute a data bank for this purpose. Sporadic complaints of ill-treatment of house-maids by the foreign employers are received by the Government. These complaints are brought to the notice of the Indian Missions which try to redress the grievances of the house-maids in consultation with the concerned employer/Govt. authorities. Simultaneously, the recruiting agents are also advised to approach the sponsors for redressing the grievances of the house-maids. Majority of the grievances are redressed in this manner. In the event of the recruiting agents not cooperating in the matter, action is taken to suspend/cancel their registration certificates.

Number of Agricultural workers in Bihar

2729. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agricultural workers male, female and children in Bihar as on date, category-wise;

(b) what facilities are being extended to them by the Central and State Governments for their Welfare; and

(c) what action Government have taken to ensure that minimum wages are paid to the agricultural workers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to 1991 Census, the total number of agricultural workers in Bihar is 95,44,444, out of which 70,48,051 are male and 24,96,393 are female. Separate data regarding child farm workers is not maintained.

(b) The Government is implementing a number of schemes for the welfare of rural workers including agricultural labour in the country like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna (SGSY) which has been launched from April, 1999 by amalgamating certain earlier

programmes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA etc. SGSY is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment such as organisation of the poor into self-help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. Whenever any complaints are received regarding non-payment or less payment of minimum wages, the enforcement authority is required to take necessary action against the defaulter in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Lack of Facilities in ESI Hospitals in Orissa

2730. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ESI hospitals in Orissa and location thereof;
- (b) whether he is aware of the lack of proper treatment facility for the workers, especially, the Mines workers in that State;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to expand ESI hospital facilities for these workers; and
- (d) the proposal mooted thereon for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) There are five ESI hospitals in Orissa located at Kansabahal, Choudwar, Jaykaypur, Brijraj Nagar and Bhubaneswar.

(b) to (d) The mine workers are not covered under the ESI Act. They are entitled to medical benefits under the Mines Act, 1952. As such, the question of expansion of ESI hospital facilities to these workers does not arise.