

Amendment in various labour laws

987. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the steps being taken for the proposed amendments of Bonus Act, Plantation Labour Act, Gratuity Act, Minimum Wages Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): With a view to harmonize the interests of all stakeholders, the amendent proposals relating to the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 have been discussed at the Tripartite Industrial Committee on 26.08.2005, while in case of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, views of the State Governments/Union Territories have been sought. The proposals relating to the amendent of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Minimum Wages Act, 1948 have been discussed in the Indian Labour Conference held on 9-10th December, 2005.

Minimum wages for garbage removal workers

988. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to enforce minimum wages for the workers enagaged in the removal of garbage in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) A statement giving details of minimum wages fixed by State Governments for sweepers/scavengers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is annexed as per Statement. The Central Government has also added the "Employment of Sweeping and Cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" to the schedule to the Act in the Central Sphere.

Statement*State-wise minimum wages for Sweeper/Scavenger*

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UT | Category of Workers in different scheduled employment | Minimum Basic wage (in Rs.) |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh* | Sweeper | 88 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | Sweeper | 55 |
| 3. | Assam* | Sweeper | 66 |
| 4. | Bihar* | Sweeper | 68 |
| 5. | Goa | Sweeper | 75 |
| 6. | Gujarat* | Sweeper/Scavenger | 88 |
| 7. | Haryana* | Sweeper | 65 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | Sweeper | 65 |
| 9. | Karnataka* | Sweeper/Scavenger | 69 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh* | Sweeper | 86 |
| 11. | Maharashtra* | Sweeper/Scavenger | |
| | | Zone-I | 128 |
| | | Zone-II | 124 |
| | | Zone-III | 120 |
| 12. | Manipur* | Sweeper | 72 |
| 13. | Mizoram | Sweeper | 91 |
| 14. | Nagaland | Sweeper | 66 |
| 15. | Punjab* | Sweeper | 91 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | Sweeper | 73 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu* | Sweeper | 72 |
| 18. | Uttaranchal* | Sweeper | 87 |
| 19. | A & N Islands | Sweeper | |

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|-----|--------------|--------------------|-----|
| | | District 'Andaman' | 100 |
| | | District 'Nicobar' | 107 |
| 20. | Chandigarh* | Sweeper | 114 |
| 21. | Daman & Diu* | Sweeper | 75 |
| 22. | Delhi* | Sweeper | 122 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | Sweeper | 56 |

*Includes Variable Dearness Allowance.

EPF arrears under litigation

989. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Employees Provident Fund arrears under litigation as on date in various States, indicating the names of private companies and Public Sector Companies based in Andhra Pradesh against which EPF amount is pending for several years;

(b) the reasons for such a long pendency; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure expeditious payment of overdue payment of EPF to employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The status of Employees' Provident Fund arrears under litigation is at Statement-I (See Below)

The details of major defaulting private and public sector establishments (involving default of Rs.50 lakh and above) based in Andhra Pradesh is at Statement-II (See Below)

(b) The recovery actions are stayed by various courts and the recovery machinery is not in a position to go ahead with recovery action.

(c) In the events of default of employees share deducted but not paid to EPF in respect of establishment closed for a long time and or under liquidation, the contribution in default is paid from Special Reserve Fund.