

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund had decided to engage a consultant for one time study of the investment options for the funds of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund. Accordingly M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting was appointed for this work.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The following issues were raised.

- i. Alleged involvement in providing inaccurate information to New York Stock Exchange in the matter of Compensation Package to its Chairman; and
- ii. Allegation of wrong doing against Marsh Inc. (sister concern).

The matter was referred to the consultant M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting for their comments and it was clarified by them that their role was restricted to advice on actuarial and pension related matters and did not involve rendering of advice or services concerning the Compensation Committee's annual decisions regarding compensation of New York Stock Exchange employees, including the Chairman.

It was also clarified that M/s. Mercer is an independent Company, run entirely by its own Management and responsible to its own Board of Directors. The events surrounding Marsh Inc. have no bearing on Mercer's operations and do not affect its financial or professional capability to service its clients effectively in any part of the world.

### **Covering teachers under Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972**

2667. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 to bring the teachers in schools and other educational institutions under its coverage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The comments of various State Government/UTs have been sought in the matter and no time frame can be indicated at this stage regarding introduction of the Bill.

### **National Child Labour Project Scheme in A.P.**

2668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed some more districts in the State to be covered under the National Child Labour Project Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals which have been given clearance alongwith the proposal which are under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in all 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh State.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

### **Difference in the wages to men and women**

†2669. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been revealed from the survey of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted between January, 2004 to June, 2004 that difference and inequality are still existing between men and women with regard to wages;

(b) whether it is a fact that in rural India a male labourer earn an average of Rs. 56.53 as daily wages whereas a female labourer earns an average of Rs. 36.15 only as daily wages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by Government to bridge this gap?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.