

Tackling unemployment problem during tenth plan

3449. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are actively considering to tackle the unemployment problem during the Tenth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the expected employment opportunities to be created;

(c) the details of the opportunities of employment created State-wise after launching the Tenth Plan; and

(d) the steps expected to be taken for achieving the target so fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have targeted creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period; 3 crore in the normal growth process and 2 crore through special employment generation programmes.

(c) and (d) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. Estimates of employment created after 1999-2000 will be available after the result of the survey conducted during 2004-05 are published by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

Need to update law relating provident fund commission

3450. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various laws related to the Provident Fund Commission for unemployed workers and factories have not been updated since 1992.

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a need to update such laws for the benefit of the workers and the economy;

(c) what steps will be taken to update all such laws;

(d) the schedule for creating the necessary laws which will benefit workers to get their dues after factories are closed; and

(e) the reasons for delays in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Benefits under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 framed under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are available to a worker on being employed only. Therefore, provisioning for unemployed workers does not arise. Safeguards already exist under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for protecting the interest of the workers affected by closure.

National Fund for Rural Development

3451. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had started a National Fund for Rural Development some years ago;

(b) the details of this fund and how much funds have been collected since its inception;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Fund for Rural Development has been basically misused by the corporation for their own benefits;

(d) what are the modifications proposed in operation of the fund; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to remove the weakness in operation of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Fund for Rural Development (NFRD) has been set up vide Resolution of the Government of India, Cabinet Secretariat dated 10th February, 1984 (partially amended by Resolution dated 18th March 1985) to mobilize funds from individual corporate and non-corporate bodies for taking up rural development activities. So far, Rs. 11,71,97,065.15 (Rupees eleven crores seventy-one lakhs ninety seven thousand sixty five and fifteen paise only) have been received under NFRD. However,