

Hospital having bed occupancy of less than 60% can be opened to non Insured Persons (IIPs) on payment of user charges.

(b) For utilization of spare capacity in Employees State Insurance (ESI) Hospitals, a scheme has been framed and circulated to all concerned for implementation.

#### **Amendment to Contract Labour Act, 1970**

3839. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to amend the Contract Labour Act, 1970 to ensure a fair deal for contract workers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendment; and

(c) how the above amendment ensures equal wages, facilities and benefits like regular employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) A proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Reviewing labour laws**

3840. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is reviewing some of the labour laws, which are standing as obstacles for employment generation, welfare of labour force, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of laws that the Ministry proposes to review;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in the Indian Labour Congress held recently with regard to the above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) Review of labour laws is a continuous process and amendments are made in labour laws from time to time in order to, *inter-alia*, promote employment generation, welfare of labour force, etc. Recent amendments carried out include those under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Apprentices Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. In addition the Government has introduced the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining of Registers by Certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2011 and the Mines (Amendment) Bill, 2011.