

### **Bringing unskilled workers under the ambit of PF and ESI**

3845. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the labour courts in the country have become irrelevant because of the employment conditions prevailing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to bring unskilled workers under the ambit of PF and ESI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to revise the limit for investment into PF?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) As per section 7 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, 'the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute one or more Labour Courts for the adjudication of industrial disputes and for performing such other functions as may be assigned to them under this Act'. Thus, the primary function of Labour Courts is to adjudicate on industrial disputes. So long as industrial disputes continue to exist, labour courts are relevant.

(b) and (c) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to all employees working in such establishments which are employing 20 or more workers and is falling under any of the Schedule Heads or class of establishments notified by the Central Government and getting wages upto Rs. 6500/- per month without any reference of being skilled or unskilled. The Act is uniformly applicable all over India except in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 applies to factories employing 10 or more persons and certain specified establishments such as shops, hotels and restaurants, cinemas and preview theatres, road motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishments etc. employing 10/20 or more persons. Employees of such factories/establishments drawing wages upto Rs. 15000/- per month are covered under the scheme. The Act does not make any distinction between skilled or unskilled workers.

(d) There is no such proposal. However, Government is contributing 1.16% in Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

### **Pensioners in the EPF 95 pension scheme**

3846. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of pensioners in the Employees Pension Fund (EPF) 95 pension scheme;