

Recommendations of Wage Board

1676. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the recommendations of the Wage Board have been accepted by Government and the relevant notification has been issued;

(b) if not, which are the recommendations that have not been accepted and the reasons for not accepting the same;

(c) whether the Indian Newspapers Society has expressed its concern over some of the recommendations of Wage Board accepted by Government; and

(d) if so, what are its concerns and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The Government has accepted the recommendations as contained in Chapters XIX and XX of the Majithia Wage Boards Report, and notified the Wage Boards Awards under Section 12(1) of The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 *vide* S.O. No. 2532(E) dated 11.11.2011. The recommendations of the Majithia Wage Boards as contained in Chapter XXI of the Report regarding retirement age, pension scheme, etc. has not been accepted by the Government as those were beyond the mandate of the Majithia Wage Boards.

(c) and (d) The Majithia Wage Boards, which was a tripartite body comprising of representatives from employers, employees and independent members, had invited comments/representations from all the stake holders before it finalised the report and taken them into consideration while submitting its report to the Government on 31.12.2010. Accordingly, the representations received on the matter were not separately considered by the Government.

The decision of the Cabinet accepting the recommendations of the Majithia Wage Boards have been notified on 11.11.2011. Subsequent to the notification, the Ministry has not received any representation from the Indian Newspapers Society on the recommendations of the Wage Boards accepted by the Government.

Unemployed persons

†1677. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons in the country, presently;

(b) whether a concrete plan has been made to decrease the number of unemployed persons in the country, presently;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to change Swarojgar Yojana into reality?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office. Last such survey was conducted during 2009-10. As per results of the last survey conducted during 2009-10, the estimated number of unemployed persons as per usual status basis was 9.50 million in the country.

(b) and (c) Government has taken several steps to reduce unemployment in the country. The focus is on creation of productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise incomes of masses to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports, etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana; Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

(d) Government of India have been implementing schemes through State Government/Union Territories to provide self employment to the people of the country. The details of the schemes are (i) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) is a holistic self employment scheme which aims at providing sustainable income to rural BPL families through income generating assets/economic activities so as to bring them out of poverty line. It has been now restructured as National Rural Livelihood Mission.

(ii) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) — for urban areas: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, to help them set up self employment ventures and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 2009-2010.

Utilization of cess received from construction companies

1678. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labour cess received from various organisations engaged in construction activities in National Capital Region, has been fully spent on labour welfare schemes during 2008, 2009 and 2010;