

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) The Standing Committee on Labour in the 18th Report has recommended the following:—

The Committee find that the Ministry has not made any provision for payment of unemployment allowance to the persons registered with Employment Exchanges. However, some States (Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir) are paying unemployment allowance to the registered unemployed youth. Such incentives, though small, encourage unemployed youth to come forward and register themselves with the Employment Exchanges, which in turn, enables States to analyse the correct employment situation and find ways and means for providing employment to these youth. The unemployment allowance also helps the youth to complete their education. The Committee strongly feel that payment of unemployment allowance not only helps unemployed youth to sustain in dire situations but also facilitates the Government in getting a realistic data of unemployment situation in the country. Though the Union Government is not in favour of providing any unemployment allowance, the Committee, however, desire that it may, at least persuade the rest of the States to emulate the State giving unemployment allowance.

(b) The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been brought in the notice of all State/Union Territories for appropriate action.

#### **Employment growth**

287. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Sample Survey data (2009-10), there is a dramatic deceleration in the total employment growth from an annual rate of around 2.7 per cent during 2000-2005 to only 0.8 per cent during 2005-10;

(b) whether it is also a fact that around 10,81,336 vacancies are lying unfilled in the Central Government; and

(c) what is Government's strategy to address the situation?

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 the results of two most recent surveys, employment estimated on current daily status basis has decelerated from an annual rate of growth of 2.62 per cent during 1999-2000 — 2004-05 to 1.02 per cent in 2004-05 — 2009-10.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, the

estimated number of vacant posts of regular Central Government Civilian employees as on 01.03.2010 is 5,33,936.

(c) All Ministries/Departments are required to review their vacancies *vis-a-vis* the work load regularly and take necessary steps in the light of such reviews. There is provision for filling up vacancies by Government Departments as per their requirements subject to extant guidelines and rules on the matter.

#### **Enhancing the pension of EPF pensioners**

†288. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assurance given by Government for enhancing the pension of the economically weak pensioners of EPF would be fulfilled this time, if so, the burden to be caused by it on Government exchequer; and

(b) the steps Government is going to take to improve the condition of EPF pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (L&E) in June, 2009 to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 entirely. The Committee submitted its report to the Central Government on 5th August, 2010.

The report of the Expert Committee was placed before the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund for consideration on 15.09.2010. CBT directed that the report be first considered by the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC). PIC has since submitted its recommendations to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for placing these before CBT for their consideration.

#### **Skill training centres for weavers in Gujarat**

289. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to create new skill training centres for weavers in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the centres would be equipped with modern and latest technology; and

(c) how many weaver centres are running in the State presently?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, one Weavers' Service Centre at Ahmedabad is functioning in the State of Gujarat.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.