

Annual rate of employment vis-a-vis growth rate of GDP

1051. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the "India Human Development Report 2011" published by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what was the average annual rate of growth of employment during the period of 1999-2000 and 2007-08, the period which experienced acceleration in GDP growth; and

(c) whether the average annual percentages of growth of employment match the average annual rate of growth of GDP in the aforesaid period, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Average annual rate of growth of employment during the period of 1999-2000 and 2007-08 was 1.4%.

(c) Average annual rate of growth of employment during the period of 1999-2000 to 2007-08 was 1.4%, while average annual rate of growth of GDP at factor cost during the period was 7.2%. The report has not co-related the average annual rate of growth of employment to that of average annual rate of growth of GDP.

Introducing Scholarship Scheme for Education of Labourers' Children

1052. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government collects a cess for labourers welfare incurred by builders;

(b) if so, the details of amount collected in the last three years;

(c) whether Government is considering introducing a scholarship scheme for the education of labourers' children based on this amount or any other;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, a cess @ 1% of the construction cost is collected by the State Governments and other authorities and paid to the respective State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards.

(b) As per the information received from States/UTs, the total amount of cess collected was Rs. 1703.19 crore, Rs 2837.42 crore and Rs. 4761.59 crore as on 31.3.2009, 31.3.2010 and 31.3.2011 respectively.

(c) to (e) Under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, every State has to constitute Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. The functions of the Board, *inter-alia*, include providing financial assistance for the education of the children of the beneficiaries.

Extending of MGNREGA to urban areas

1053. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unanimous recommendations of the 43rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference to extend MGNREGA to urban areas; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's response in view of the large number of urban unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) 43rd Session of Indian Labour Conference has recommended that there is a need to introduce an urban employment guarantee scheme on similar lines of MGNREGA.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend MGNREGA to urban areas. However, the Government is already implementing some important schemes to address the problem of urban unemployment as given below:

(i) Swama Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) under which poor are assisted to set up individual/ group micro enterprises and imparted skill training.