

(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.

(ii) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) which is a newly launched (in August, 2008) credit linked subsidy programme for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.

**Pathetic condition of ESI hospitals**

†1054.SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that the medical stores and hospitals being run by the Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESI) are in a pathetic condition due to which the workers are not getting appropriate benefit of this scheme;

(b) the details of the necessary steps taken by Government to address the aforesaid problem in Gujarat; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to overcome the shortage of the doctors and medicines in the hospitals being run by the Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESI)?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) The condition of Employees State Insurance (ESI) Hospitals and their working in the country is generally satisfactory.

(b) Steps taken by ESI Corporation for streamlining the functioning of the hospitals in Gujarat State are as under:

1. ESI Corporation has increased the ceiling on reimbursement of expenditure on medical care from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1200/- per Insured Person family unit per annum w.e.f 01.04.2009.
2. In addition, ESI Corporation has also decided to reimburse the full administrative expenditure incurred by the State Govt, towards Medical Scheme on actual basis subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.
3. Hospital Development Committee has been constituted in all ESI Hospitals "including Gujarat" and has been given adequate financial & administrative powers for taking decisions for improvement in medical care facilities.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.