

- (d) whether the State Governments had agreed to the Government of India's proposal;
- (e) if not, the reaction of the Ministry; and
- (f) by when this uniform policy will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, *inter alia*, to make NFLMW statutory and to cover all employments under the schedule of the Act irrespective of the number of workers engaged. This would enable all workers in the country to receive at least the National Floor Level Minimum Wage to provide a subsistence level.

(c) Since at present NFLMW has no statutory backing, the State Governments are persuaded to fix minimum wages such that in none of the scheduled employments, the minimum wage is less than the NFLMW. NFLMW has helped in reducing disparity across the States and among different rates of minimum wages to some extent.

(d) and (e) Till now 21 States/Union Territories have sent their comments in connection with the amendment proposals, all except Jharkhand have broadly agreed to the proposed amendments.

(f) Amendment to the Act is subject to the approval of the Parliament. Therefore, no specific timeline can be fixed at this stage for its implementation.

Extension of health insurance scheme to unorganised sector

3684. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the health insurance scheme has been extended to unorganized sector too;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how Government proposes to oversee smooth implementation of the scheme;
- (d) what is the number of people working in unorganized sector in Jharkhand; and
- (e) how many of them may get benefit of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which was initially launched for BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector, has been

extended to certain occupational groups in the unorganised sector *viz.*, building and other construction workers [registered under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996], street vendors, beedi workers, MGNREGA beneficiaries (who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year) and domestic workers.

(c) The progress of the scheme is being reviewed regularly on the basis of data received on daily basis. Regional workshops are organized with stakeholders and performance is reviewed and corrective measures are taken as and when required.

(d) and (e) As per survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the estimated number of persons living below poverty line is 1.16 crore in Jharkhand State, which translates into around 23.27 lakh BPL families. As on 30.04.2012, more than 12.62 lakh BPL families have been issued smart cards in the State.

Rehabilitation of Muslim child labour

3685. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of child labour in the country belongs to Muslim children;

(b) if so, the State-wise details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate this segment of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group 5-14 years in the country was 1.26 crore including Muslim children. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the number of working children were estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows declining trend. The state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 is given in Statement. (*See below*) The Ministry of Labour and Employment is not maintaining religion-wise data on child labour.

(c) The Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 266 districts of the country for rehabilitation of children including Muslim children rescued/withdrawn from work. Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system.