

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) Review/amendment of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy including to maintain growth in the manufacturing sector.

(b) Recent amendments carried out include those under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Apprentices Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. In addition the Government introduced in Parliament the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining of Registers by Certain Establishments) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, the Mines (Amendment) Bill, 2011 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2011.

The estimated current capacity for Skill Development in the country is about 5.3 million. The limited capacity is contributing to skill shortage. Further, the change in technology, use of new technologies and shifting of industries from one place to other is also contributing towards skill mismatch.

(c) The National Policy on Skill Development (NSPD) formulated in 2009 has identified a need for considerable expansion and diverse approaches to raise the capacity of the existing system extensively over a limited period and set a target for providing skill training to 500 million persons by the year 2022. The Policy also envisages expansion of coverage of vocations.

The Policy has allocated targets for different Ministries/Departments. The Ministry of Labour & Employment would train 100 million and the roadmap to achieve the target is through the various skill development scheme viz. opening of second and third shifts in existing and private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), setting up of 1500 new Industrial Training Institutes and 5000 Skill Development Centres (SDC) under Public Private Partnership mode, increasing seating capacity under Apprentice Training Scheme, increasing existing capacity of Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) Institutes and training & testing under Skill Development Initiative etc.

Embezzlement in EPF Amount

895. SHRI SABIR ALI :

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

(a) whether Government has recently unearthed embezzlement to the tune of Rs. 175 crores of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) amount;

(b) whether it is a fact that some employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have been found involved in the embezzlement; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the punitive actions which are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) No, Sir. However, a substantial evasion of Provident Fund contribution has been detected on 30.06.2010 in respect of M/s. B.L. Kashyap & Sons, Delhi, a major construction company.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has started an investigation in the matter and registered a case No. RC No. 2172011A0008 CBI ACU-IV, New Delhi. As per FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation, nine officials of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation figure in the case. Further action can be taken only after the investigation is completed by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Modification in the National Council for Vocational Training

†896. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bring some modifications in the National Council for Vocational Training (NCTV);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that great discontent is rooting in the concerned people in view of likely modifications; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) and (b) Government has approved National Policy on Skill Development, a guiding document for Skill Development Programme in the country, in February, 2009. The Policy envisages NCVT to be strengthened and re-engineered with a broader mandate and representation including the current functions and following new functions :

(i) Design, Development and maintenance of National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF).

(ii) Labour market information system and dissemination of information at the national level.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi