

- (b) if so, which are the provisions in the Indian legislations, with respect to which there is a demand for change;
- (c) the laws amended so far to facilitate direct investments; and
- (d) the details of the legislations proposed to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment keeps receiving demands, from different stakeholders from time to time to amend the various provisions of the labour laws.

The labour laws with respect to which there are demands to change mainly relate to industrial relations, contract labour, social security, occupational safety and health etc.

Recent labour law amendments carried out are 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 Employees 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.

However, the amendments mentioned above alone cannot be perceived to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) as FDI is influenced by a number of factors including the policies of the Government.

Denial of minimum wages in handloom sector

129. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether handloom sector is one of the largest employers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether instances of denial of minimum wages and violation of labour laws have been reported from this sector;
- (d) if so, the details of such instances reported during the last three years; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), 43.32 lakh handloom weavers and ancillary workers are engaged in handloom weaving activities as per the 3rd Handloom Census of India (2009-10).

(c) and (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Handloom Sector comes under the State sphere and the State/UT Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise the rate of minimum wages for workers in this sector. The payment of minimum rates of wages to these workers are to be statutorily ensured by the State/UT Governments as per the provisions contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

According to the information available in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, 25 States/Union Territory Governments have notified Textile Industry, Readymade Garment Manufactory, Handloom Industry, Power loom Industry and Khadi and Village Industry as a Scheduled Employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. No specific Information is available in the Ministry of Labour and Employment about the denial of minimum wages and violation of labour laws in this sector.

(e) The Minimum Wages Act contains provision for penal action for violation of the Act. The officers designated as Inspectors are empowered to carry out necessary measures under the Act. At the first instance they advise the defaulting employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance of the advice, there are provisions of prosecution in the Act against the defaulting employers.

Creating 500 million skilled workmen by 2022

130. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's ambitious target to create the 500 million skilled workmen by 2022 is practically possible;

(b) if so, what is the strategy and plan to achieve the target; and

(c) what is the achievement till today?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) To achieve the ambitious target to create 500 million skilled