

Inclusion of right to work as a fundamental right

113. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of including right to work as a fundamental right in the Constitution so that unemployed youth would be guaranteed employment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. If Right to Work is made a Fundamental right, it would be necessary for the State to find matching jobs for all the people who seek employment. But given the country's resource constraints, it is not possible to make Right to Work a Fundamental Right at present. However, the Government has taken several steps to provide decent opportunities of livelihood to all those who seek employment. A provision under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 has been made to provide at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled work. Government is taking all necessary steps to enhance the employability and employment in the country by promoting growth of labour intensive sectors such as Construction, Real Estate and Housing, Transport, Tourism, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information Technology Enabled Services and a range of other new services. Besides, Government is also providing self employment opportunities in the rural areas through National Rural Livelihood Mission.

Approach Paper to the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) suggests focus on faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth for creating adequate livelihood opportunities. Such job opportunities could come from faster expansion in agro-processing, supply chains, steady modernization in farming, maintenance of equipment and other elements of rural infrastructure and the services sector.

ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

114. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries functioning in the country, along with number of doctors/specialists in ayurvedic and homeopathy;