

Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are applicable to migrant workers.

The Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers including migrant workers.

The migrant workers come from various segments of unorganized workers such as building and other construction workers, farm labours, domestic workers etc. The existing schemes for such workers are also accessible to migrant workers.

(f) and (g) The responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and issuance of Ration Card to them rests with the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. The Central Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to consider using ration entitlement authority slips for migrant labour/displaced persons or homeless for limited purpose of ration entitlement. However, at present there is no proposal to make ration cards portable across the States.

Amendment in EPF pension scheme

2134. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to bring amendment in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Pension Scheme to enhance the quantum of monthly pension as the benefit in other scheme is highest than the present pension scheme and also increase the coverage limit to Rs. 15,000 per month and reduce the number of workers to 5 instead of 20 for coverage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), Sub-Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government. The issue of enhancing wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 has been discussed in meetings of

Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. However, Government is yet to take a final view in the matter.

There is no proposal to reduce the number of workers to 5 instead of 20 for coverage under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Setting up of National Skill Development council

2135. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted National Skill Development Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the main objectives of this Council;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to set up 50000 Skill Development Centres in the country;
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (e) by when such centres are likely to be set up along with the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Government has set up Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development as an apex institution in July, 2008 with following functions

- (i) lay down broad policy objectives, strategies, financing and governance models to promote skill development;
- (ii) review progress of activities relating to skill development periodically and provide mid-course corrections, including changes in part or whole of current schemes under implementation;
- (iii) orchestrate Public Sector/Private Sector Initiatives in a framework of collaborative action.

The composition of the council is given in Statement (*See below*).

- (c) to (e) Ministry of Labour and Employment has proposed to set up 5000