

- (b) Land for ESI Hospital, Angul has been allotted by State Government to ESI Corporation. Possession of the land will be taken by ESIC after signing the lease-deed.
- (c) Construction of 5 Doctors' Dispensary at Jharsuguda is at an advanced stage.
- (d) Land has been allotted by the State Government on lease basis for construction of ESI Hospital at Jajpur Road (Duburi).

Regularisation of contract workers

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

(a) whether Government has any figure of the number of contract labourers, Non- Muster Roll (NMR), work charged, contractual appointment workers working in Central Government, Central Public Sector; and

(b) whether they are getting equal wages, same working hours and working conditions and whether Government is considering to take policy decision to regularize all of them as a one-time settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, both Central and State Governments are the 'Appropriate Government'. The estimated number of contract labourers, engaged by licensed contractors all over India in Central Sphere is 18.44 lakhs.

(b) As per Rule 25(2) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971, the wages of the contract labour shall not be less than the rates prescribed under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and in cases where the contract workers perform the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer doing the same or similar kind of work. The liability to ensure payment of wages and other benefits is primarily that of the contractor and, in case of default, that of the principal employer.

In case of complaints, field offices of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Organization investigate and take action. Social security, aspects of contract workers under Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 and Employees State Insurance Act 1948 are enforced by the Employees Provident Fund organization and Employees State Insurance Corporation respectively provided the establishments in which outsourced workers are working are covered under the said Acts.

There is no provision of regularisation under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and, therefore, there is no proposal to regularise the contract workers.

Number of unemployed

†434. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed people is constantly rising in the country over the past years;

(b) if so, whether the number of unemployed people which was 9.8 million in 2010 increased to 10.8 million in 2012; and

(c) if so, the fact in this regard and the reasons for increase in the number of unemployed people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSS), Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation. As per the results of the two most recent NSS surveys, number of estimated unemployed people on usual status basis has increased from 9.5 million in 2009-10 to 10.6 million in 2011-12. Increase in number of unemployed persons may be due to the fact that labour force has grown faster than work force during the corresponding period.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi