

individual is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/ Union Territory Administration concerned in whose jurisdiction the individual ordinarily resides.

Security to President, Vice President and Prime Minister is provided as per provisions of the relevant Blue Books and the SPG Act, as applicable.

Security at Government cost to other individuals is provided, based on the threat perception or on positional basis, in accordance with the provisions of the Yellow Book.

Due to involvement of multiple agencies, including State Government agencies, in providing security, it is difficult to estimate the expenditure being incurred on providing security to individuals.

The details of individuals who are being provided security cover, cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

#### **Contract workers**

399. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of contractual workers in major establishments;
- (b) how many out of these are Below Poverty Line;
- (c) what steps have been taken by Government to help raise the standards of the contractual workers engaged in Government work and in general; and
- (d) whether Government has any new initiatives in mind to help in bringing parity between the contractual and permanent workers, if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) In this regard no data is maintained.
- (c) To protect the interests of the contract labour, the Government has

enacted Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. 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 contract workers work are covered under the said Acts.

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.

(d) To safeguard the interest of contract workers further in terms of wages and social security, a proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 is under consideration of the Government.

**Minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- to EPFO pensioners**

400. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) pensioners are getting monthly pensions as low as Rs. 12 and Rs. 38;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of such EPFO pensioners who are getting monthly pension below Rs. 1000/-; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure a minimum pension of Rs. 11000/- to EPFO pensioners irrespective of their contributions to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the reasons for low pension are low pensionable service and low pensionable salary.

Out of a total of 41 lakh pensioners under EPFO, approximately 83% pensioners are getting pension below Rs.1000 per month.

(c) A proposal to enhance minimum pension to Rs.1,000/- per month under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is under consideration of the Government.