

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) The agenda for the meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) is prepared by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The last meeting of CBT, EPF was held on 25.02.2013.

ESI medical college and hospital at Bhubaneswar

410. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(c) whether it is a fact that the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Corporation has taken over possession of land near Bhubaneswar in October, 2009 to establish a medical college and a hospital;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to start the institution; and

(c) the reasons for such inordinate delay in starting construction and non-completion of the college and hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The construction plan for setting up a Medical College in Bhubaneswar has been approved by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and necessary approvals from various departments have been obtained.

(c) The delay in starting construction is due to representations from various public forums and representatives demanding a Medical College at Rourkela instead of Bhubaneswar. In view of these representations, a Sub-Committee was constituted by the Government to decide the location of Medical College in Odisha. The report of the Sub-Committee is under consideration of the Central Government.

Social security for unorganized workers

†411. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of workers engaged in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to improve their conditions;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government has formulated any social security and other welfare schemes for their upliftment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (d) The unorganized sector workers suffer from cycles of excessive seasonality of employment, lack of a formal employer-employee relationship and absence of social security protection. With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, the Government enacted the "Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level to recommend social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers.

The Government has initiated steps in the context of all these social security benefits.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide smart card based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit, cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 28 States/Union Territories and more than 3.41 crore smart cards have been issued as on 20.02.2013.

The Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) was launched on 02.10.2007 with a view to providing insurance cover to the head of family or one earning member of rural landless households. The scheme is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Under the scheme, the head of the family or an earning member of the family is eligible to receive the benefits of Rs. 30,000/- in case of natural death, Rs.75,000/- for accidental death, Rs. 75,000/-for total permanent disability and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability. More than 1.77 crore lives are covered under AABY as on 31.10.2012.

The Government has been implementing Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), which has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. All citizens above the age of 60 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme. For persons above the age of 80 years, the

amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month. More than 2.27 crore persons have availed benefits under the scheme as on 31.10.2012.

Review of labour policies

412. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give concrete shape to the observations made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during February, 2012 that existing labour policies need a review; and

(b) whether Government would initiate the process of reforming existing rigid labour laws so that, more informal sector labour could join the organized sector as that will also ensure better paying jobs and greater investment in their skills' development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Review and reform/ updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the country. With this objective, Government reviews the existing labour policies and amends labour laws from time to time *inter-alia*, to enable more workers from the informal sector to join the organized sector.

The recent amendments carried out in labour laws pertain to 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 Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (now known as Employees' Compensation Act, 1923).

Number of migrant labourers

413. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has details about the number of migrant labourers working in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning for any registration system for migrant labourers; and