

- (iv) Recovery actions as provided under Section 8B to 8G of the Act are taken.
- (v) Action under Section 14 of the Act is taken for filing prosecution against the defaulters before the Competent Court of Law.
- (vi) Action under Section 406/409 of IPC is taken against the employer for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages/salary of the employees but not deposited in the fund.

Exemption of labour laws to SME sector

737. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has made a request for exemption of certain labour laws to the SME sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of problems that are being faced by the SME sector in regard to labour;
- (d) what kind of exemption the above sector has asked for; and
- (e) the action plan of Government to address the above grievances of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises had suggested enactment of a separate legislation (single and comprehensive) for Micro and Small Enterprises. The request was examined and it was not found feasible or desirable to have a separate law for MSE Sector. Most of the Micro and Small Enterprises get automatically exempted unless they cross the number filter or get covered by the specific Acts.

The very purpose of labour laws, dealing with wages, social security, labour welfare, occupational safety and health, industrial relations etc. is to protect the interests of workers, especially those who are vulnerable to exploitation. Hence, these laws need to be applied in the micro, small and medium enterprises to the extent they are covered under the respective Acts.

To minimize the number of returns required to be filed by Micro and Small Enterprises, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining

Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 has been enacted. This Act provides for exemption by way of allowing 'very small' establishment (employing up to 9 workers) to maintain only one register and submit one return and 'small establishments' (employing 10 to 19 workers) to maintain three registers and submit one return in respect of 9 Acts.

Unempolyed youts in the country

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

(a) whether the number of educated and uneducated unemployed youths in the country is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the year-wise and State-wise details of such unemployed youths during the last three years and current year; and

(c) whether Government has any plan for providing employment to the unemployed and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) As per results of two surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during 2004-05 and 2009-10, unemployment rates among persons in the age group of 15-29 years on usual status basis have marginally increased in rural areas and have reduced in urban areas. The details of unemployment rate on the basis of education level in the age group of 15-29 are given in Statement-I (*See* below). State-wise details of unemployment rates among youth in 2004-05 and 2009-10 in the age group of 15-29 years are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Employment to large number of people has been provided through schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Swarana Jayanti Shahari RozgarYojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY) now restructured as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Recognizing the need to skill large number of people to make them employable, the Government set a target of skilling 5 crore persons during 12th Plan period. National Skill Development Agency has been set up to coordinate action among Central Ministries in this context.