

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revision of pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is effected on the basis of surplus in actuarial evaluation of the Pension Fund. There is continuous deficit in the actuarial valuation of Employees' Pension Fund since 2001. Therefore, pension under EPS, 1995 has not been revised since 2001.

(c) to (e) Representations have been received by the Government for revision of pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. These were considered by the Expert Committee constituted to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The Report of the Expert Committee was examined by Pension Implementation Committee (PIC) which *inter-alia* recommended that the minimum pension be increased to Rs. 1000/- per month as an interim measure by enhancing the rate of contribution into EPS, 1995 by 0.63%.

A proposal for providing a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- to Member Pensioners of EPS, 1995 is under consideration of the Government.

ESI Hospitals and dispensaries in Odisha

1499. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to immediately complete the contractual work of ESI Medical College, Bhubaneswar and hospitals at Angul, Jharsuguda, Jajipur and Baleswar;

(b) whether it is a fact that ESIC has spent the lowest amount to develop the infrastructure; in Odisha in comparison to other States; and

(c) the number of hospitals and ESI dispensaries working in Odisha and the total funds spent for developing the infrastructure in Odisha in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) All necessary steps are being taken to complete the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) medical college at Bhubaneswar and ESIC Hospitals at Angul and Dulburi, Jajipur. Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) Hospital at Brajrajnagar, Jharsuguda is already functional. No proposal has, been approved by ESI Corporation to set-up any hospital at Baleswar.

(b) and (c) Expenditure on development of infrastructure in a state depends upon ESI coverage, number of Insured Persons, requests received from State Government, etc.

Six ESI Hospitals and 45 ESI Dispensaries are working in Odisha and total fund to the tune of Rs. 51.06 crore has been spent for developing the infrastructure in Odisha (especially for construction/repair and maintenance work) during the last three years.

Difference in wages of regular and contract workers

1500. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the wages of a regular and a contract worker doing the same or similar work in industries and establishments both in public sector/Government departments and private sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove such difference in wages of labourers doing the same work;

(c) whether Government is considering to bring in necessary changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 to end such situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) No such information is available with this Ministry. However, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, no separate wage is fixed for contract workers by the appropriate Government under their jurisdiction. The minimum rates of wages fixed for a regular worker in an employment are also applicable for workers on contract basis for similar work.

(b) A provision already exists under rule 25(2)(V)(a) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Rules, 1971 that in cases where the workmen employed by the contractor 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 of the workman of the contractor,