

(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,

shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the Principal Employer of the establishment on the same for similar kind of work. Provided that in case of any disagreement with regard to that type of work the same shall be decided by the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The Act also makes it mandatory for the contractors/employers to pay minimum wages fixed by the Government. If the contractor fails to pay the minimum wages to the contract labour, the Act makes it obligatory for the Principal Employers to pay the same.

(c) and (d) A proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act is under the consideration of the Government.

**Private placement agencies under the scanner of EPFO**

1501. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether private placement agencies supplying contract workers to Government Departments have come under the scanner of EPFO for allegedly stripping workers of salaries and evading Provident Fund (PF) payments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government along with its Public Sector Units employes about 18.4 lakh contract workers from housekeeping, security and IT related work and the principal employer is responsible to pay PF which is not enforced in true spirit by various Government Departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps taken on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) Some instances of private placement agencies defaulting in remittance of Provident Fund dues have come to the notice of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) As per statistics available with EPFO, as on 30-11-2013, 763 private placement agencies are reported to have violated the provisions of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 out of a total number of more than 16000 such establishments.

(c) The Central Government along with its Public Sector Units (PSUs)