

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The total number of working children in the age group of 5 to 14 years in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per the Census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per Census 2011, which is a reduction of 65%. The sector-wise details on child labour from 2011 Census is not available.

(b) and (c) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour since 1988 in the area of high concentration of child labour. Under this scheme, all children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/ withdrawn from hazardous occupations and processes and enrolled in NCLP Special Training Centres, which have provisions for bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. At present the Scheme is approved for 270 Districts in 20 States of the country through approximately 6000 Special Training Centres with enrolment of more than 2.50 lakh children. The number of children mainstreamed during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of children mainstreamed
2011-12	125716
2012-13	72976
2013-14	64050

Criteria of employees for coming under purview of EPFO

†1615. SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present in order to fall under the purview of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), a company must employ at least twenty employees and there is a proposal to reduce this number;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented and the number of employees who would be benefited therefrom?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies to every establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule- I or falls in class of establishments notified by the Government and engaging twenty or more persons.

A proposal to reduce the threshold limit from 20 persons to 10 persons for coverage under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is included in the comprehensive amendment to the Act, which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The time frame for implementing this proposal has not been fixed. The number of employees to be benefited from this proposal has not been worked out.

Unorganised workers under PF scheme

1616. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to bring the unorganised workers under Provident Fund (PF) scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Employees Provident Fund Organisation has no plan to bring unorganized workers under Provident Fund (PF) scheme.

Including LPG delivery boys in the list of Scheduled Employment

1617. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 743 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11 December, 2013 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken up the issue of including LPG delivery boys in the list of Scheduled Employment for Central sphere for getting the social and other benefits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) No demand has been received