

employment and unemployment in the country. As per results of the survey report on Status of Education and Vocational Training in India, number of technical and non-technical graduates and above among persons above 15 years age in the state Bihar was estimated at 9.3 lakh on usual status during 2009-10. Details of employed workers according to education level are given below:

Education Level	Workforce (in lakh)
Not literate	120.7
Literate & up to Primary	48.4
Middle	28.3
Secondary	34.2
Higher Secondary	15.4
Diploma/Certificate course	0.8
Graduate & above	9.3
TOTAL	257.1

(d) and (e) New technology, brought about by structural changes due to economic development, requires different set of skills. Government has laid emphasis on skill upgradation of the workforce so that they are relevant to industry. National Skill Development Agency has been set up to coordinate action among central Ministries in this context and around 75 lakh persons have been skilled during 2013-14. To improve exchange of employment related information in the labour market, the Government has also decided to convert Employment Exchanges into Career Centres in collaboration with State Governments for providing counseling services to students and job-seekers along with other employment related assistance. The Government is also reviewing apprenticeship schemes to enlarge participation of small and medium industries so as to enhance employability in the country.

Revision of EPF Pension

2228. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to revise the pensionable salary from Rs. 6500 to Rs. 15000 under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme 1995 (EPFPS 1995);

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for revision of pensionable salary at regular intervals keeping in view the rate of inflation and also ensure minimum pension of Rs. 1000 to the already retired workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has since approved a proposal for increase in wage ceiling for coverage under Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 from Rs. 6,500/- to Rs. 15,000/- per month.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration for revision of pensionable salary at regular intervals keeping in view the rate of inflation. The Government has approved a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- per month to the pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995.

Living condition of maids

2229. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor work and living conditions are still a part of the lives of maids across the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the domestic servants are routinely harassed and exploited by their employers in many ways;

(c) whether inspite of several steps taken by Government to improve the condition of the maids, even today they are treated as slaves and untouchables by many; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) The domestic work falls under the purview of State sphere and State Governments are empowered to enact legislations for domestic workers and to take action for violation of their rights.

(b) to (d) As Public Order is a state subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take action for protecting people including the domestic workers in the State. The Central Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers Social Security