

than ten and not more than nineteen persons are employed or were employed on any day in the preceding twelve months.

The proposal to amend the definition of 'small establishment' by enhancing the number of workers from 'nineteen' to 'forty' has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The reason for the amendment is to cover more number of establishments for simplification of procedure for furnishing returns and maintaining registers.

(d) No exemption has been given to small or big factories from the Maternity Benefit Act, the Equal Remuneration Act and the Child Labour Act. However, in the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, small establishments have been given simplified procedure for furnishing of returns and maintaining the registers, under certain scheduled Acts.

#### **ESI hospital at Gulbarga, Karnataka**

1976. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of activities which will commence in the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospital at Gulbarga;

(b) when was the ESI hospital inaugurated and by when full fledged work would start;

(c) whether full physical work has been completed;

(d) where the staff is working and how many employees are taking job benefits through this hospital; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to make this hospital fit to fulfil the needs of this area and by when it would operate at 100 per cent capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The building of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital, Gulbarga was inaugurated on 01.02.2014. The construction work of the Hospital is nearing completion except for availability of permanent supply of water and electricity.

(d) The teaching faculty recruited for starting the ESIC Medical College, Gulbarga are performing clinical duties at District Hospital, Gulbarga, which is under tie-up arrangement with ESIC Medical College.

(e) The ESIC has sought in-principle consent of the State Government concerned, including Karnataka, for taking over the ESIC Medical College, ESIC Hospital and other associated buildings in Gulbarga.