

Card requires collection of biometric data of Insured Persons (IPs) which require IPs to visit camps at the Branch Office of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) or camp held at the premises of the employer from time to time. Thereafter, de-duplication of biometric data is done before Pehchan Card is issued. Similar process is followed for issuance of Pehchan Card to the family of Insured Persons (IPs).

(c) At present, there are 151 Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals in the country for providing treatment and supply of medicines to the Insured Persons (IPs).

**Proposal to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**

2326. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to permit easier retrenchment of workers by industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has suggested certain amendment to Section 25FFF of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in the context of implementing the National Manufacturing Policy. This Ministry has organized two tri-partite consultations with the stakeholders to ascertain their views. The proposed amendments have not been finalized.

**Non-payment of minimum wages by outsourcing agencies**

2327. DR. T. N. SEEMA:

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many services of Government departments/semi-Government/Public Sector are operated and delivered through outsourcing agencies and that the employees of such agencies are not provided adequate salary as per the Minimum Wages Act, medical facilities and PPF schemes;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and the mechanism existing with Government to ensure payment of minimum wages to their employees as per the Minimum Wages Act; and

(c) the action taken against those outsourcing agencies for non-payment of minimum wages to their employees as per the Minimum Wages Act during last two years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The workers are engaged through agencies as per provisions of General Financial Rules. Under Minimum Wages Act (MW Act), if any short payment is detected then claim is filed before the authority by the officer in addition to filing of the prosecution against the outsourcing agencies in the court of law. Authority directs to pay the difference of actual wages paid and minimum rates of wages fixed under Minimum Wages Act, along with compensation. The details of the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, in the Central sphere during the last two years and the current year are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of enforcement of Minimum Wages Act in the Central sphere during last three years and current year*

Sl. No.	Particulars	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (upto Dec., 2014)
1.	No. of inspections conducted	15550	13099	4852
2.	No. of prosecution launched	5307	5167	1790
3.	No. of irregularities detected	291148	270273	179958
4.	No. of convictions	4954	5074	1041

**Minimum wages for workers in factories and companies**

†2328. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed minimum wages for the workers working in factories and companies;

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

(c) whether Government has any monitoring mechanism in place to find out whether the workers are being exploited in any particular factory or company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. Rates fixed in the Central sphere are applicable to establishments under the authority of Central Government. Rest of the firms comes under State sphere.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.