

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.

(c) The implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is carried out by the Centre as well as the States in respect of their respective jurisdiction. In the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM). The compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-employer or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are invoked.

Skilling 500 million people by 2022

2329. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a target of skilling 500 million people by 2022, apprenticeship will be India's key to increasing the employability of its youth force;

(b) whether currently around 2.8 lakh apprentices are trained each year against 4.9 lakh seats in Central and State Sector establishments; and

(c) whether Indian companies are wary of engaging apprentices because of the cumbersome 52 year old law requiring rigid compliance norms, inspections by Labour Department officials and penalties that include imprisonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Apprenticeship scheme is a cost effective mode for vocational training because it utilizes the existing facilities available in the industries for providing hands on training to youth which enhances their skills for higher employability.

(b) Yes, Sir. The apprenticeship regime in India manages to train 2.97 lakh apprentices under the categories of Trade apprentices, Graduate apprentices, Technician apprentices and Technician (Vocational) apprentices against 5.27 lakh apprenticeship seats located in the Central and State Sector establishments (Public and Private).

(c) The Apprentices Act, 1961 has been amended and brought into effect from 22.12.2014 to provide necessary flexibility with safeguards, and facilitate wider participation of youth and the industry.