(vi) The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996

(vii) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

(viii) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970

(ix) The Inter-State Migrant Workman (Regulation of employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

(x) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process after tripartite consultations amongst Government, Employers and Employees' Organisations. While undertaking such changes overall interests of labour like wages, employment, social security, working environment, health and safety etc. are protected.

(c) It is proposed to reduce the threshold limit for coverage under the Act from 20 employees to 10 employees to expand the service coverage net of the Employment Provident Fund and Misc. Provision (EPF&MP) Act, 1952. Further, details of step taken to expand services facilities for workers under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) are as under:-

(i) Threshold for coverage of factories reduced from 20 to 10 or more persons.

(ii) Coverage of medical and educational institutions has been implemented in 24 and 23 States respectively.

(iii) During the current financial year up to 30.9.2014 the scheme has been extended to 52 areas covering 93396 employees.

(iv) Registration of factories/establishments and their employees is now online and employers are able to generate code number for their establishment and temporary identity cards for their employees online.

(v) The Corporation decided on increasing in the fee to be paid to IMPs from existing ₹ 150/- per IP family per year to ₹ 300/- per IP family per year.

Eradication of child labour

251. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to eradicate child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any cases of child labour which have been serious in nature have surfaced, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being initiated by Government against child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken multi-pronged action to eradicate child labour in the country. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes. Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme Since 1988 by which children withdrawn from prohibited employment are rehabilitated through Special Training Centres. The Government is also creating awareness against the evil of child labour.

(c) and (d) As per information available from States/UTs, during the year 2014, 1098 violations came to notice, 1054 prosecutions were launched against the employers and there were 785 convictions.

Increase in labour disputes

252. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labour employer disputes have increased over the years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and settlement awarded in labour-employer disputes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. as per the information collected from Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) that the disputes pending at the end of the year witnessed a decline in 2013-14 (-2.7%) as compared to an increase (+5.7%) at the end of 2012-13.

(b) The details showing the Industrial Disputes handled, Settled etc. in Central Sphere during the financial year and settlement awarded in labour-employer disputes during he last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).