

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Last such survey was conducted during 2011-12.

As per results of the last three surveys, number of unemployed youth in the age group of 15-29 years estimated on usual status was 0.89 crore in 2004-05, 0.86 crore in 2009-10 and 0.84 in 2011-12.

#### **Contractualisation of work force**

706. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether contractualisation of workforce has become a reality in the country resulting in labour violence;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to provide social security benefits as well as better and decent wages to contractual workers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government has not finalized the amendments in Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(f) the time by when the amendments in Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) Any establishment can employ contract workers in any job or process unless it is prohibited under section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. However, the establishments engaging contract workers have to follow the statutory provisions contained in labour laws.

The interest of contract labourers in terms of wages and other service conditions are

safeguarded under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. As far as the security in term of wages is concerned, as per Rule 25(2)(v)(a) of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Central Rules, 1971, the wages of the contract labour shall not be less than the rates prescribed under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and in cases where the contract workers perform the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer doing the same or similar kind of work. The liability to ensure payment of wages and other benefits is primarily that of the contractor and, in case of default, that of the principal employer.

The social security aspects of contract labourers under, Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 and Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 are enforced by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Employees State Insurance Corporation respectively provided the establishments in which contract labourers are working are covered under the said Acts.

(d) to (f) The proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition), 1970 is under active consideration of the Government.

#### **Unclaimed EPFO funds**

707. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the announcements made by the Finance Minister in his budget speech that the unclaimed Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) funds will be transferred to the proposed Senior Citizen Welfare Fund and another to let low wage earners choose between Provident Fund and National Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Ministry thereto; and

(c) the estimated unclaimed funds so far, the main reasons for not having claimants and the steps proposed to be taken to make the claims hassle-free for the dependents of the deceased contributors who have failed to give their nominees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2015-16 has proposed the creation of a