

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) As per Census Reports of 2001 and 2011, number of working women in urban areas of the country has increased from 1.61 crore in 2001 to 2.80 crore in 2011, registering decadal change of about 74% and number of working men increased from 7.62 crore to 10.51 crore, showing decadal change of about 38% during the same period. Broad age group-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Government has taken several measures for safeguarding, protecting and promoting the interest of workers through legal provisions under various labour laws such as The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, The Factories Act, 1948, The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, The Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1979, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc.

Statement

Number of working women and men (main + marginal workers) in urban areas and their decadal change according to broad age group as per census 2001 and 2011 in the country

Age group	Working women in urban areas (in crore)			Working men in urban areas (in crore)		
	Census 2001	Census 2011	Decadal change (%)	Census 2001	Census 2011	Decadal change (%)
5-14	0.04	0.08	7.95	0.09	0.12	4.09
15-24	0.28	0.45	6.33	1.30	1.56	2.00
15-29	0.49	0.84	7.00	2.40	3.06	2.77
15-59	1.47	2.54	7.23	7.10	9.65	3.60
All ages	1.61	2.80	7.42	7.62	10.51	3.80

Labour reforms

411. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on bringing labour reforms in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the trade unions have made any suggestion in regard to proposed labour reforms, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Reforms in labour laws are an ongoing process to update legislative system to address the need of the hour and to make them more effective and contemporary to the emerging economic and industrial scenario. Government has taken a number of initiatives for governance reforms as well as legislative reforms. The process of Legislative reforms includes consultation with stakeholders including Central Trade Unions, Employers' Association and State Governments in the form of tripartite consultation. During recent months, several such tripartite meetings have been held for considering various legislative reform proposals where the representatives of Central Trade Unions participated and gave their suggestions on the legislative proposals.

Improving facilities for ESIC beneficiaries

412. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided to adopt suggestions on improving facilities;

(b) whether ESIC is also considering to increase the coverage aspects of ESI scheme, so that more and more workers of the country get the social security benefits including medical care;

(c) whether ESIC will bear the expenses on super speciality treatment of ESIC beneficiaries over and above the expenditure by State Governments; and

(d) whether the decision related to pre-existing diseases not to be considered for super speciality treatment will only be with prospective effect and not with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched 2nd Generation Reforms ESIC-2.0 to provide the following facilities and increase coverage of the Scheme:

(i) To start ESIC scheme in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by 31st December, 2015.

(ii) To cover whole of 393 districts by 31st March, 2016.

(iii) To cover all the construction workers *w.e.f.* 1st August, 2015.

(c) Yes Sir, expenditure on Super Specialty Treatment would be borne by ESI Corporation directly.