WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Funds for Chhattisgarh under rehabilitation of bonded labour scheme

†*183. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government's full share amount under Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme for Chhattisgarh has not been received;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pension amount has been increased for beedi labourers, textile labourers, bonded labourers, peasants and other labourers of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the details of assistance the Central Government will provide for their accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2014-15 the entire claims of Chhattisgarh for Central assistance amounting to ₹ 85.30 lakh has been released *vide* sanction dated 9th September, 2014 for rehabilitation of 853 bonded labour in the State. No new claim has been received from the state during the current financial year.

(b) The beedi workers working in the establishments covered under The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, get a minimum pension of ₹ 1000/- per month. For the workers in the unorganised sector there is no pension scheme specific to beedi labourers, textile labourers, bonded labourers, peasants and other labourers. Unorganised Workers aged 60 years and above are covered by the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. All IGNOAPS beneficiaries aged 60 to 79 are entitled to receive a monthly pension of ₹ 200/- from the Central Government. Similarly, those 80 years and above are entitled to ₹ 500/- per month. However, the State Governments have the freedom to pay more amount in addition to the Central assistance.

(c) Under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2007 for beedi workers, housing subsidy of ₹ 40,000/- is provided in two equal installments to the beedi workers for construction of houses. The scheme is being implemented in the country through 17 Welfare Commissioners of the Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry. Further, "Housing for All" Mission has been launched on 25.6.15 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

help facilitate the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories in providing a pucca house to all the urban poor eligible under the mission.

Extension of incentives under MEIS

*184. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has extended incentives under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has enhanced duty drawback rates and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 on April 1, 2015. At the time of introduction of MEIS on April 1, 2015, the scheme covered 4914 tariff lines at 8 digit level. Countries of the globe were grouped into 3 market categories (Country Group A, Country Group B & Country Group C) for grant of incentives under MEIS. Slight changes in lines covered etc. were made on 14.07.2015 and 15.7.2015. Thereafter on 29.10.2015, 110 new Tariff Lines at 8 digit level were added under the scheme. The rates/country coverage for 2228 lines at 8 digit level were amended. As on date, 5012 Tariff Lines at 8 digit level are eligible for rewards under MEIS.

Rewards under MEIS are payable as a percentage (2, 3 or 5%) of realized FOB value of covered exports, by way of duty credit scrip. The scrips can be used for payment of customs/excise duty/service tax. Scrips and inputs imported under the scrips are fully transferable.

(c) The All Industry Rates (AIRs) of Duty Drawback have been revised for some lines *w.e.f* 23.11.2015 based on certain broad parameters including, average prevailing prices of inputs, inputs output norms, share of imports in input consumption, the rates of central excise and customs duties, incidence of service tax paid on taxable services which are used as inputs in the manufacturing or processing of export goods, value of export goods etc. The rate of Duty Drawback are varying from 0.4% to 13.5%.