

(c) the steps taken by Government to extend the reach of ESI scheme to all the districts in the country and also to reduce the threshold limit from present ten workers to five?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act has been implemented in a phased manner. So far, scheme has been implemented in 854 centres as on 31.12.2015. However, under ESIC-2.0 initiatives, it has been decided to extend the scheme to all the areas of 393 districts, where the Scheme is already implemented.

(b) It has been decided to extend health coverage to the auto-rickshaw drivers on pilot basis.

(c) The coverage under the ESI Act, 1948 is being undertaken in phases. However in line with the decision to extend the scheme to the entire area of 393 districts, survey is already in progress. It has also been decided to extend the scheme to remaining districts by 31.12.2016. ESIC has also constituted a Sub-Committee to examine the level upto which the threshold limit be reduced and categories of the establishments/workers to which this reduced threshold should be applicable.

Paternity leave for male employees

745. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to formulate any policy or guidelines laying down minimum specifications for the provision of Paternity Leave to men employed by organisations and companies in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of question above.

Steps to address problem of child labour

†746. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding child labour obtained in Census, 2011 and whether it has been decided by the Ministry to take any steps in the wake of those data; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.