

(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.

(b) the details of issues; mentioned about child labour in Asia and particularly in India, in the recent report titled 'Findings on the Forms of Child Labour' and the steps being taken by Government to resolve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh as per 2011 Census which shows a decline from 2001 Census. The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years as per 2011 Census, State-wise is given in Statement (*See* below). Comments/views/report/recommendations on child labour from various stakeholders are considered in the process of action taken for the elimination of child labour.

Considering the nature of the problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio-economic development.

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions of children in employment where they are not prohibited.

A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. The Government has decided to move Official Amendments to this Bill. The Amendment Bill alongwith Official Amendments, *inter-alia*, proposes complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years, linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, making the punishment for employers more stringent and constitution of Rehabilitation Fund.

Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme under which children rescued/ withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA).

Statement

*Slate-wise details of main workers in the age group of
5-14 years as per Census 2011*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	999
2.	Andhra Pradesh **	404851
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5766
4.	Assam	99512
5.	Bihar	451590
6.	Chandigarh U.T.	3135
7.	Chhattisgarh	63884
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1054
9.	Daman and Diu U.T.	774
10.	Delhi U.T.	26473
11.	Goa	6920
12.	Gujarat	250318
13.	Haryana	53492
14.	Himachal Pradesh	15001
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	25528
16.	Jharkhand	90996
17.	Karnataka	249432
18.	Kerala	21757
19.	Lakshadweep U.T.	28
20.	Madhya Pradesh	286310
21.	Maharashtra	496916
22.	Manipur	11805
23.	Meghalaya	18839

1	2	3
24.	Mizoram	2793
25.	Nagaland	11062
26.	Odisha	92087
27.	Puducherry U.T.	1421
28.	Punjab	90353
29.	Rajasthan	252338
30.	Sikkim	2704
31.	Tamil Nadu	151437
32.	Tripura	4998
33.	Uttar Pradesh	896301
34.	Uttarakhand	28098
35.	West Bengal	234275
TOTAL		4353247

*** Including Telangana.

Pathetic condition of tea plantation workers in Assam

747. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the living condition of labourers working in the tea gardens in India especially in Assam are pathetic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government is planning to introduce any Bill or Scheme to pay sufficient compensation/wages to the labourers working in the tea gardens in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other measures including policy adopted, if any, for social and economic security of tea garden workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) The Plantations Labor Act, 1951 (PLA) provides for regulation of the conditions of work in Tea Plantations and the welfare