

Complete ban on child labour

1118. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to impose blanket ban on child labour in view of ever increasing number of child labourers in the country; 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) and (b) A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in the Parliament. The Amendment Bill along with 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 the offence of employing any child or adolescent in contravention of the Act, made cognizable. The amendment will also prohibit children to work in their family/family enterprise. However, considering the social fabric and socio-economic conditions in the country where children acquire and imbibe basic skill sets while helping their parents, an exception has been made:

- (i) where the child helps his family or family enterprises, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes set forth in the Schedule, after his school hours or during vacations;
- (ii) where the child works as an artist in an audiovisual entertainment industry, including advertisement, films, television serials or any such other entertainment or sports activities except the circus, subject to such conditions and safety measures, as may be prescribed and provided that such work does not affect the school education of the child.

Migrant labourers

1119. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of rural migration of individuals to cities in search of jobs during the Financial Year 2014-15 and that in Financial Year 2015-16; and
- (b) the steps, if any, taken by Government to create job opportunities at the village level, in general, and in agricultural sector, in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No data is maintained at Central level in respect of migrant labourers.

(b) With a view to prevent distress migration from the village level, the Government has enacted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. According to the Act, employment shall be provided within a radius of five kilometers of the village where the applicant resides at the time of applying. In cases the employment is provided outside such radius, it must be provided within the Block and the labourers shall be paid 10% extra wages. As such, providing local employment, on demand by the household, mitigates distress migration. Ministry of Rural Development has also undertaken a placement linked skill development Scheme called Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushlya Yojana (DDUGKY) for rural poor youth which primarily targets on skilling of rural unemployed youth to improve their employability. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been implementing a credit-linked subsidy programme named Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) since 2008-09 in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for creating employment opportunities in the non-farm sector by setting up of micro-enterprises.

Number of employed persons

1120. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment (*i.e.* number of persons employed) at overall level in the 8 selected sectors has increased by 1,34,000 during the quarter ended in September, 2015 over June, 2015; and

(b) the contribution of aforesaid increase in employment, in percentage and number terms, to the target set by Government for Financial Year 2015-16 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) To assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India since January, 2009, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, has been conducting Quarterly Quick Employment surveys (QES) in the selected labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors namely textiles including apparels, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport, IT/