

(b) what is the present number of insured persons and what would be the additional number, after increasing the threshold limit;

(c) whether any optional scheme is available for those who go out of threshold coverage due to increase in wages, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the existing infrastructure like ESI dispensaries, hospitals, manpower are able to meet additional coverage, if not, the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Government, in-principle, decided to enhance the threshold limit of wage for coverage under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 from existing ₹ 15,000/- pm to ₹ 21,000/- pm. For this purpose, a Notification had been issued on 06.10.2016 inviting suggestion/objections from all stakeholders.

(b) As on 31.03.2016, the number of Insured Persons (IPs) under ESI Scheme were 2.14 crores. The additional number of IPs on account of wage revision are estimated to be 35 Lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The ESI Corporation has taken a number of decisions to absorb the increased number of workers under its net like-

- Increasing hospital bed strength of ESI Hospitals by 50%, if the bed occupancy of the concerned hospital has been consistently more than 70% in last three financial years.
- Up-gradation of its dispensaries into 6 & 30 bedded hospitals in a phased manner.
- Partnering with private medical practitioners and private clinics for providing healthcare facilities in those areas where ESI does not have them.

Schemes for providing employment

† 905. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formed many schemes for giving employment to unemployed people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of unemployed people who were given employment during the last two years and the number of people likely to be provided employment in the coming years, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATATREYA): (a) and (b) Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) run by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Government has implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content.

A new scheme "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" has been initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the year 2016-17 for incentivising industry for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme employers would be provided an incentive to enhance employment where the Government will pay the employer's contribution of 8.33% EPS made to new employees. In textiles (apparel) sector, the Government will pay the EPF contribution of 3.67% in addition to paying the EPS contribution of 8.33%.

(c) Employment generation is a key priority of the Government. Government has focused on making employment opportunities accessible to unemployed persons. The 12th Five Year Plan projects 5 crore new job opportunities to be generated in the non-farm sector and will provide skill certification to the equivalent number. In order to improve the employability of youth, around 20 Ministries run skill development schemes across 70 sectors. According to the data compiled by National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), MSDE, number of persons skilled across various sectors were 76.12 lakh and 28.85 lakh during 2014-15 and 2015-16 (till Oct, 2015) respectively. The employment provided under different schemes are given below:

Schemes		2014-15	2015-16
Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme	No. of Employment Generated	357502	323362
National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	Employment Generated (in Lakh)	16628	23514
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana	No. of candidates trained	86120	270392
National Urban Livelihoods Mission	No. of beneficiaries provided skill training	182037	218477

Decline in child labour

†906. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- whether there has been a decline in number of child labour in the country;
- if so, the number of children involved in child labour between 2014-15 to September, 2016; and
- the age bracket specified by Government with regard to child labour as on date?

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 data on child labour involved during the period from 2014-15 to September, 2016 is not available.

(c) As per the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, a child who has not completed his/her 14th year of age is prohibited from employment or work in any occupation or process. Further, adolescent in the age of 14 to 18 years are also prohibited from employment in hazardous occupations and processes.

Peaking of unemployment among youth and women

†907. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that unemployment peaked among youths and women during the year 2015-16;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.