

Commission on Labour has recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four or five Labour Codes on functional basis. Accordingly, the Ministry has taken steps for drafting four Labour Codes on Wages; Industrial Relations; Social Security and Welfare; and Safety and Working Conditions respectively, by simplifying, amalgamating and rationalizing the relevant provisions of the existing Central Labour Laws. Ministry of Labour and Employment has prepared a preliminary draft on Labour Code on Social Security, 2017 by simplifying, amalgamating and rationalizing the relevant provisions of the 15 existing Central Labour Laws and placed on the website of the Ministry on 16.3.2017, inviting comments of the public/stakeholders. The provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2017 are under consideration.

#### **Revision of base year of WPI**

1222. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the new features of the new series of WPI;
- (c) the major conceptual difference between WPI (2004-05) and WPI (2011-12); and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to modernise the country's data collection methods and also the way it calculates various economic indices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The revision of the base year of the macroeconomic indicators is a regular exercise to capture structural changes in the economy and to improve the quality, coverage and representativeness of the indices. The base year revision of WPI has aligned the series with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

(c) The new series of WPI has the following salient features and improvements over the old series:—

- The revised basket of WPI and its weighting structure conform to the structure of economy in 2011-12.
- The number of items in the basket has increased from 676 to 697 and the number of price quotations has increased from 5482 to 8331.
- New series of WPI does not include indirect taxes in order to remove the impact of fiscal policy. This is in consonance with international practices and will make the new WPI conceptually closer to Producer Price Index.
- A new "Food Index" is compiled to capture the inflation in food items.
- Seasonality of fruits and vegetables has been updated to account for more months as they are now available for longer duration.
- Item level aggregates for new WPI are compiled using Geometric Mean (GM) instead of Arithmetic Mean.
- A Technical Review Committee has been set up to review and recommend appropriate methodological intervention to continuously improve coverage, quality and relevance of the WPI.

(d) The Government has modernized the data collection methods by adopting international norms and global best practices such as submission of data online through web portals, use of computer assisted personal interviewing methods etc.

#### **ESI hospital at Gulbarga in Karnataka**

1223. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) details of actual capacity of building of ESI hospital, Gulbarga, Karnataka for the service of labourers for their treatment;
- (b) what is the actual utilization of the campuses;
- (c) details of permanent and ad-hoc staff thereof, post-wise; and