

Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review, revise and enforce the minimum rates of wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions.

‘Domestic Workers’ falls under the purview of State sphere, wherein, the State Governments as the appropriate Governments are empowered to include Domestic Workers in the Scheduled Employment to ensure the minimum wages to them.

Further, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is contemplating to formulate a National policy on Domestic Workers. The policy is still in the draft stage.

Creating employment opportunities

584. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating creating employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Employment generation has been an important priority of the Government. Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations.

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), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The Make in India, Skill India, Digital India schemes are being implemented by the Government and these are likely to enhance the employment base. MUDRA and START UPS scheme are being initiated by the Government for facilitating self employment. Loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Scheme have been extended by banks, Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to small/micro business enterprises by providing loans upto 10 lakh for manufacturing, processing, trading, services and activities allied to agriculture for promotion of self-employment.

In order to improve the employability of youth, around 22 Ministries/Departments run skill development schemes across various sectors. According to the data compiled by National Skill Development Agency, M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), number of persons skilled across various sectors was 1.04 crore during 2015-16.

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 and made-ups) sector, the Government will also pay the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition. Government has also announced a booster package of ₹ 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector.

Government has also implemented the National Career Service Project providing a package of employment related services *inter alia* consisting of a portal (www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers.

Package for closed tea garden workers of West Bengal

585. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has provided any special financial package for the closed tea garden workers of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No separate special financial package as such has been provided by the Central Government for the closed tea garden workers in the country, including West Bengal. However, in case of closed/locked out tea gardens, the State Government of West Bengal provides ₹ 1500/- per month per head as Family Allowances in Locked Out Industries (FAWLOI). Besides, under the Human Resource Development component of the Tea Promotion and Development Scheme implemented by the Tea Board, financial assistance of ₹ 79.46 lakhs has been provided to the workers in the closed tea gardens including those in West Bengal during the 12th Plan Period and the current Financial Year 2017-18 (upto 24.11.2017).