

(c) if so, then what are developmental measures Government is taking in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is thinking on boosting manufacturing and production industries to create more jobs with competitive workforce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) NITI Aayog has prepared a strategy paper titled 'Three Year Action Agenda 2017-18 to 2019-20' which is part of a long-term Fifteen-year Vision and Seven-year Strategy. The Action Agenda inter-alia proposes a path to achieve all-round development of India and its people. The agenda states that the unemployment is the lesser of India's problems and under-employment needs to be focused in. As per the strategy paper under-employment and therefore low-wage employment rather than unemployment is the key challenge facing India today and more well paid and formal jobs are required.

(c) and (d) 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) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

The National Manufacturing Policy of the Government targets to create 10 crore jobs by the year 2022. 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.

Government has also decided to strategically promote labour-intensive manufacturing and expand employment opportunities by promoting tourism and agro-based industries.

#### **New policy initiatives for protection of interests of labourers**

592. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new policy initiative after June, 2014 to ensure effective protection of the interests of labourers;

(b) if so, what are the details of these initiatives; and

(c) what is the overall impact of these initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry has taken a number of legislative as well as governance initiatives during the last 3 years for the protection of the interests of labourers. Some of the important initiatives are as follows:-

- Amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 by which eligibility limit for payment of bonus enhanced from ₹ 10000/- to ₹ 21000/- per month and the Calculation Ceiling from ₹ 3500/- to ₹ 7000/- or the minimum wages.
- Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2017 enabling payment of wages to employees by cash or cheque or crediting it to their bank account.
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 provides for complete ban on employment of children below 14 years in any occupation or process.
- Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017, increases the paid maternity
- leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- The Employee Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1923 seeks to rationalize penalties and strengthen the rights of the workers under the Act.
- Shram Suvidha Portal, launched by the Government on 16.10.2014, operates a transparent risk based Online Labour Inspection Service for effective enforcement of Labour Laws.

These initiatives intends to promote wage security, job security and social security for workers.

#### **Survey regarding employment and unemployment**

593. DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the employment in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey regarding employment and unemployment during 2016-17;