

- (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;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of this survey;

(d) whether the level of unemployment is lower among illiterates as compared to graduates; and

(e) if so, the preventive measures taken to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per the surveys on Employment-Unemployment conducted annually by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated worker population ratio on usual status basis for persons aged 15 years and above in country in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2015-16 was 51%, 53.7% and 50.5% respectively.

(b) and (c) Labour Bureau has conducted Employment-Unemployment survey in 2016-17 and the findings of the survey are yet to be released.

(d) and (e) As per the survey on Employment-Unemployment conducted by Labour Bureau, the estimated unemployment rate on usual principal status approach for persons aged 18-29 years was 2.2% for not literates and 18.4% for graduates and above in 2015-16 in the country.

Employment generation is key priority of Government. 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.

In order to improve the employability of youth, around 22 Ministries/Departments run skill development schemes across various sectors.

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 schemes are being initiated by the Government for facilitating self-employment.

Government is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project which comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for the job seekers 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 (PMRPY) has been launched by the Government in the year 2016-17 for incentivizing industry for promoting employment generation.