

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued Notification bearing S.O. No. 1420(E) dated 29.03.2018 wherein gratuity limit has been increased from ₹ 10 lakhs to ₹ 20 lakhs under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(c) The Government has also issued another Notification bearing S.O. No. 1421 (E) dated 29.03.2018 wherein it has also increased the maximum period of maternity leave in case of female employees to be counted as continuous service from 12 weeks to 26 weeks under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Representations from various stakeholders have been received in the Ministry. The Ministry had also organised tripartite consultations on 23.02.2017 with all stakeholders including representatives of employers and employees, who supported the proposal. The provision contained in the amended Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 have been implemented w.e.f. from 29.03.2018.

Illegal placement agencies

4247. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the status of the illegal placement agencies functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has initiated any disciplinary action on these illegal placement centres, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The matter regarding illegal placement agencies functioning in the country lies in the domain of the States. Such information is not maintained at the central level.

An advisory has been issued to the State Governments/UTs requesting them to take necessary steps for making legislations/policies for protection of workers from exploitation by unscrupulous agents/placements agencies. Meetings were also held on 6.12.2017 and 12.02.2018 at Shillong and Kolkata respectively, where the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, ILO and other Stakeholders had participated to discuss issues relating to regulation of placement agencies.