

Payment to contractual labour through cheque

2336. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 there is a direction to pay the factory and contract labourers through cheque;

(b) if so, whether the contract labourers working at thermal power station, Chachai in Amarkantak in the district Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh are being paid through cheques;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken on the complaints received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 has been amended by Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 2017 (effective from 28.12.2016) to enable the employers to pay wages to their employees by (a) cash or (b) cheque or (c) crediting to their bank account. The amendment in the Act also enables the appropriate Government to specify the industrial or other establishment, by notification in the Official Gazette, which shall pay to every person employed in such industrial or other establishment, the wages only by cheque or by crediting in his bank account.

Provision for making of payment only by cheque or by crediting in bank account of an employee, in respect of industrial or other establishment in the Central Sphere has been notified on 26.04.2017.

(b) to (d) As per information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, contract labour are paid through Bank at thermal power station, Chachai in Amarkantak in the district Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.

Low wage employment in the country

2337. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NITI Aayog in one of its report has stated that underemployment is a major problem in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any step to curtail low wage employment in the country;