

**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;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) The Three year Action Plan (2017-2020) of NITI Aayog has recognised underemployment as a more serious problem than unemployment. The Action Agenda emphasizes the need to create high-productivity, high-wage jobs. It offers specific proposals for jump-starting some of the key services and manufacturing sectors, including apparel, electronics, food processing, gems and jewellery, financial services, tourism and real estate etc..

Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. According to the provision contained in the Minimum Wage Act, 1948, the Government revises the appropriate minimum wages in the scheduled employments under its jurisdiction at an interval not exceeding five years.

#### **Job loss in formal sector**

2338. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the recent Government data, more than 23 lakhs jobs in formal sector have been lost during September, 2017 till June, 2018;

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

(c) the reasons for the same; and

(d) the details of the jobs lost during June to December, 2018 in formal sector, sector-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Labour Bureau's revamped Quartely Employment Survey (QES) launched in April, 2016 measured relative change in employment situation over successive quarters in sizeable segment of Non-farm Industrial economy. The survey covers 8 major sectors namely Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/BPO, Education and Health. The details of Sector-wise change in employment is given in the Statement (*See below*).