

established by a Central Government. Employment other than the scheduled employment for central Sphere come under the purview of State Government and accordingly State Government wages are applicable in such employments.

(b) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the enforcement is secured at two levels. While in the Central Sphere the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State Sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. The designated inspecting officers' conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment/underpayment of minimum wages, they direct the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed under Section 22 of the said Act are taken recourse to.

Beedi workers fall under the purview of State sphere, wherein, the State Governments as the appropriate Governments have fixed the minimum rates of wages for them under their respective jurisdiction.

Access to hospitals under ESIC to all citizens

2344. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to give all citizens access to hospitals under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also offers subsidised/free medicines as well as out-patient and in-patient facilities at a nominal cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the provision of Section 73B of ESI Act, ESI Corporation in its 175th meeting held on 18.09.2018 has taken a decision for providing access to Non-Insured Persons for medical services in its under-utilised ESIC Hospitals at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bihta (Bihar) and Gulbarga (Karnataka).

(c) and (d) As a Pilot Scheme for one year in its 176th meeting held on 05.12.18, ESI Corporation has decided to levy user charges on non-Insured Persons availing medical services from its underutilised ESIC Hospitals. It is proposed to levy user charges, as per following terms:—

- OPD consultation @ ₹ 10/- per consultation
- IPD @ 25% of CGHS package rates.
- Medicines as per actual.

Reimbursement in case of maternity leave

2345. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to implement a scheme to reimburse employers in the private sector 50 per cent of the wages of the last 14 weeks of maternity leave; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is working on an incentive scheme for entities that provide 26 weeks maternity benefits to their woman employees as provided for in the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017. To enable an entity to avail of the incentive, the women employees working in their entity should be a wage earner of less than ₹ 15,000/- per month and a member of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for at least one year and not covered by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The scheme is proposed to be administered through Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and shall be implemented after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Decline in women labour force

2346. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is dramatic decline in women's labour force participation rates as compared to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the policies with regard to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the results of available labour force surveys on Employment-Unemployment conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated labour force