

Cess on all types of construction activities

2270. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1 per cent cess is to be levied and collected on all types of construction activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even if average daily wage is ₹ 300 per day, then cess collection should be ₹ 4,000 per worker/year;

(c) why many States are not collecting this amount and some are collecting just ₹ 477 per worker/year; and

(d) how Government will be able to implement social security schemes to building and other construction workers with this meagre amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. BOCW welfare cess is not collected on the basis of the daily wage of a BOC worker.

(d) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1996 provides for social security and welfare of building and other construction workers. For the above said purposes, a cess is levied and collected at the rate of 1% of the cost of construction by the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Building and Other Construction Workers' welfare cess Act, 1996. The State Governments/UT Administrations have collected around ₹ 45,473.1 crore and spent an amount of ₹ 17,591.592 crore up to 30.09.2018. The State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards, constituted under BOCW Act, utilize the cess fund for the social security and welfare of BOC workers in terms of Section 22 of BOCW Act, 1996.

Finalisation of new Agricultural Export Policy

2271. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Export Policy, 2018 has been finalised;

(b) whether Government is aware that certain agricultural products such as rubber, banana, cashew, pepper and cardamom are excluded from the Agricultural Export Policy, if so, the reasons therefor; and