

for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Amendment Act also provides stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has made the offence as cognizable.

After strengthening the legislative framework through amendment in Child Labour Act, Government has framed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017 which *inter alia* specifies the duties and responsibilities of State Governments and District Authorities to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act. Government has also devised a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as a ready reckoner for trainers, practitioners and enforcing and monitoring agencies.

Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour. Under the scheme children in the age group of 9-14 years, rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day-meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.

Further to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the NCLP scheme a separate online portal PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) has also been developed and is in operation.

Incentive scheme for women workers in public and private sector

1071. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incentive scheme has been proposed by Government wherein seven week's wages would be reimbursed to the employers on employing women workers with up to ₹ 15,000 wage ceiling and 26 weeks paid maternity benefit;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed scheme can be implemented well in the public sector but not in private and contract jobs;

(c) if so, what steps would Government take to ensure the equal implementation of the proposed scheme in the private sector; and

(d) what alternatives does Government have for the women workers in private sector other than the proposed scheme?

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

(b) The scheme is proposed to be made applicable for both public and private sector including contractual jobs, and hence it can be implemented for all the said sectors through EPFO.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, is enforced and implemented by the respective State Governments in all sectors except in the Mines and Circus industries. Time to time, advisories are issued to State Governments for strict enforcement and compliance of the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. Alternatively, ESIC 2.0 vision, aimed at extension of ESIC coverage in all districts by 2022 will achieve the objective of extending maternity benefits to women employees.

Provident Fund trusts

1072. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Provident Fund (PF) trusts exists in the country under the PF Act, 1925;

(b) the details of the number of subscribers availing the services of the PF trusts;

(c) the details of the contributions by the subscribers in these PF trusts; and

(d) the details of the unclaimed amount lying in these trusts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.