

- (3) The scheme also provides for financial assistance of ₹ 4.50 lakh per district to the States for conducting survey of bonded labourers, ₹ 1.00 lakh for evaluatory studies and ₹ 10 lakhs per State per annum for awareness generation. Central Government will give 50% of the amount required for conducting survey, awareness generation and evaluatory studies in advance. A State may conduct survey once in every three years per sensitive district. A State may conduct five evaluatory studies per year.
- (4) The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. However, immediate assistance upto ₹ 20,000/- may be provided to the rescued bonded labour by the District Administration irrespective of the status of conviction proceedings.
- (5) The scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least ₹ 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.
- (6) The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force.

#### **Social security of labourers in the textile industry**

1075. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the report by International Labour Organisation (ILO) that over half the garment sector in India pays less than legal minimum wage;
- (b) whether there is any policy by Government to ensure that statutory minimum wages in the textile sector is reviewed regularly in line with the cost of living, provide adequate income for a decent living standard for workers without the need for excessive overtime hours, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government controls the attempt of manufacturers to devalue the female labour by paying them lesser wages in garment sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Textile sector establishments come under the purview of State Government. According to the provisions contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Government shall review/revise at such intervals not exceeding five years for scheduled employments under its jurisdiction. In order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government mooted the idea of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) in terms of recommendation of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1988. So far, the Central Government and 27 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted VDA as a component of minimum wage and revise twice a year or annually taking in to account the rise in Consumer Price Indices.

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Textile sector establishment comes under the purview of State Government. The minimum wages fixed by the appropriate Government are equally payable both to male and female workers and the Act does not discriminate on the basis of gender.

#### **Women employment**

1076. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recent records of percentage of women employment in the country in formal as well as informal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to reimburse employers for maternity leave in the private sector to encourage overall women employment; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and its expected time of launch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the recent report on employment-unemployment surveys in 2015-16 conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the findings are as given below:—

*For Female aged 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country (in %)*

	Labour Force Participation Rate	Worker Population Ratio
Rural	31.7	30.2
Urban	16.6	14.8
Rural+Urban	27.4	25.8