

unorganised workers including domestic workers. The Act provides formulation of social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits and old age protection by the Central Government. The State Governments are mandated under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganised sector workers, including domestic workers, relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits housing, education schemes for children, skill upgradation of workers, financial assistance and old age homes.

(d) and (e) A draft National Policy on domestic workers is under consideration of the Central Government. The salient features of the draft policy are as under:—

- (i) Inclusion of domestic workers in the existing legislations.
- (ii) Domestic workers will have the right to register as workers. Such registration will facilitate their access to rights and benefits accruing to them as workers.
- (iii) Right to form their own associations, trade unions.
- (iv) Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence.
- (v) Right to enhance their professional skills.
- (vi) Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation.
- (vii) Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc.
- (viii) Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of concerned placement agencies.

The Ministry of Labour is working on a draft policy for regulation of placement agencies for domestic workers in consultation with the ILO and other stakeholder. Further, action is being taken to extend the purview of the draft policy to include in it other placement agencies, which deal with placement of other kind of workers also. An advisory has also been issued to the State Governments/UTs requesting them to take necessary steps for making legislation/policies for protection of domestic workers from exploitation by unscrupulous agents/unregistered placement agencies.

Comprehensive policy to protect the domestic workers

2799. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive policy including enactment of Act to protect the interest of domestic workers who work for private

households, often without clear term of employment, unregistered in any book and excluded from the scope of labour legislation;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) A draft National Policy on domestic workers is under consideration in the Central Government. The salient features of the draft policy are as under:

- (i) Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the existing legislations.
- (ii) Domestic workers will have the right to register as workers. Such registration will facilitate their access to rights & benefits accruing to them as workers.
- (iii) Right to form their own associations, trade unions.
- (iv) Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence.
- (v) Right to enhance their professional skills.
- (vi) Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation.
- (vii) Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc.
- (viii) Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of concerned placement agencies.

Reduction in ESI contribution

2800. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to reduce the employers' contribution to the ESI scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that this step will adversely affect the workers who are beneficiaries of the scheme; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?