

workers who migrate within India for Jobs/better employment opportunities. The Salient features of the Act are as under-

- Registration of all principal employers/contractors.
- Licensing of contractors.
- Issue of passbooks
- Payment of minimum wages.
- Payment of equal wages to male and female workers for same type of work.
- Payment of journey allowance.
- Payment of displacement allowance.
- Providing suitable residential accommodation.
- Providing prescribed medical facilities.
- Providing protective clothing.

The Ministry of Rural Development has notified a detailed framework for setting up Migration Support Centers (MSCs) in areas of high concentration of placement of skilled youth to mitigate the distress of migration. The framework provides for States concerned to set up MSCs in areas of high concentration of placement of skilled youth. These MSCs provide services like alumni support, accommodation assistance, counseling services, opportunity for periodic get together, networking events with employers, co-ordination with local civil and police administration etc.

Expansion of ESI scheme

3611. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to expand the coverage of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating present number of employees benefiting ESI scheme, particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bring more people under the ESI scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) 2.0 programme, ESI Scheme has been extended to new areas. The ESI Scheme has been extended to 541 districts. It has been decided to extend the benefits of ESI Act, 1948 to the entire country by the year 2022.

(b) The number of employees covered under ESI Scheme as on 31.03.2018 was 3.11 crore and the number of Insured Persons entitled to all benefits (as on 31.03.2018) was 3.43 crores. In Maharashtra, the number of employees covered and the Insured Persons as on 31.03.2018 were 41.70 lakhs and 45.94 lakhs respectively.

(c) Periodical surveys are carried out from time to time for bringing more units and their employees under the umbrella of ESI Scheme. Survey programme has been launched w.e.f 01.07.2019 for a period of three months.

Misuse of existing labour laws by industries and business firms

3612. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many industries and business firms are misusing and not adhering existing labour laws in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to amend existing labour laws in the country for the benefit of workers/employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) "Labour" falls under the Concurrent List. Central and State Governments takes action in accordance with respective Labour Laws. No such incident of misusing Labour Laws by industries and business firms has been reported. However, in case of violation of Labour Laws, suitable legal actions are initiated against the defaulter. The Office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) through its regional offices and State Labour Machineries conduct inspections regularly under various labour laws to ensure the compliance of laws by the industries and business firms in their respective jurisdiction.

The Ministry has taken steps for drafting four Labour Codes namely The Code on Wages; The Code on Industrial Relations; The Code on Social Security and Welfare;