

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The State Government in their respective jurisdictions implement safety, health, welfare measures provided under the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules made thereunder. Inspections are made by the State Government to enforce the said act so that safety, health and welfare measures are provided to workers by the employers.

National Pension Scheme

†1871. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a National Pension Scheme for the retail merchants, shopkeepers and for self-employed people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the current beneficiaries of National Pension Scheme have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details of the beneficiaries of said National Pension Scheme in various States including Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) has been launched on 12.09.2019 to provide old age protection to approx. 3.0 crore traders, shopkeepers and self-employed persons in the age group of 18-40 years. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. Enrolment to the Scheme is done through the Common Service Centres, with its network of 3.50 lakh Centres across the country. In addition eligible persons can also self-enroll through visiting the portal www.maandhan.in. The traders in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turn over, not exceeding ₹1.5 crore and who are not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS/PM-SYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan) or an income tax payer, can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50% monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Subscribers, after

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for a monthly minimum assured pension of ₹3,000/-. Various measures including celebration of Pension Week/ Pension Saptah have been taken for effective implementation of the Scheme. All States/UT Governments were requested for popularizing and bringing more awareness about the Scheme. The progress of the Scheme is being reviewed regularly in the Ministry at senior level with State/UT Governments, for taking initiatives under Mission Mode.

Retrenchment of employees in IT sector

1872. SHRI K.K. RAGESH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is massive retrenchment of employees in the IT sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if so, whether any measures are proposed to address such massive retrenchment of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) As per inputs received from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), there is no such massive retrenchment of employees in the IT sector. According to National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the IT sector directly employs around 41.4 lakh persons with an addition of around 1.7 lakh persons in Financial Year 2018-19 and continues to be a net hirer in this fiscal. The IT sector, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing work force is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium and small) are also implementing rigorous training programmes to re-skill/ up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies.'

Minimum wages for apprentices

1873. SHRI K.K. RAGESH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the apprentices are considered employees and eligible for minimum wages or stipend at par with minimum wages, as contractual or permanent workers, under Code on Wages Bill, 2019 passed by Parliament; and