

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