

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Government has prohibited the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 hazardous occupations and 57 processes under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(b) to (d) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. These children are put into special schools being run under the scheme, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc. Government is also taking steps towards economic rehabilitation of the parents of these children so as to supplement their income levels.

Housing scheme for beedi workers

1793. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of beneficiaries under Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005 (Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Housing Scheme);

(b) the amount of subsidy being paid to them by Government;

(c) the number yet to be covered; and

(d) the steps taken to cover the gap and what is its time-bound framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A Statement is enclosed (*See below*).

(b) A uniform central subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per tenement is paid to a beedi worker under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Central subsidy for construction of houses is sanctioned on the basis of proposals, complete in all respect, received from the individual workers or Co-operative Societies of Beedi Workers or from the State Government concerned under the Economically Weaker Section component of the scheme and subsidy is released subject to availability of funds. Sufficient funds under the scheme are available to meet the requirement.

Statement

State-wise details of houses sanctioned for construction of houses by the Beedi Workers under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2005 during 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Houses Sanctioned in 2005-06	No. of Houses Sanctioned in 2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9595	11485

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	Nil	91
3.	Bihar	1016	678
4.	Karnataka	Nil	1160
5.	Jharkhand	Nil	151
6.	Madhya Pradesh	60	225
7.	Maharashtra	187	129
8.	Orissa	43	1634
9.	Rajasthan	Nil	03
10.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	2898
11.	Uttar Pradesh	21	128
12.	West Bengal	Nil	168
GRAND TOTAL:		10,922	18,750

Setting up of independent P.F. Trust

1794. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that first time in the country Government have granted permission to the private company to set up an independent Provident Fund Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether interests of labourers have been kept in mind while granting this permission; and

(d) if so, what are the guidelines Government have issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No permission has been granted to private company to set up an independent Provident Fund Trust under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. However, the establishments covered under the Act can be granted exemption under the Act for administration of provident fund in respect of their employees subject to the stipulated conditions which *inter alia* provide that the rate of contribution and other Provident Fund benefits on the whole available to the employees of such establishments are not less favourable than the benefits provided under the Act and the Scheme.