

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has declared services in oil fields as public utility services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are going to be extended to the workers as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Labour *vide* Notification dated 16.10.2002 has declared services in oil fields as public utility service in public interests for a period of six months, under sub-clause (vi) of clause(n) of Section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) Workmen employed in any public utility service are entitled to the following protection/benefit under Section 22(2) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947:—

Employer carrying on any public utility service shall not declare lock-out of any of his workmen—

- (i) without giving them notice of lock-out as hereinafter provided, within six weeks before locking-out; or
- (ii) within fourteen days of giving such notice; or
- (iii) before the expiry of the date of lock-out specified in any such notice as aforesaid; or
- (iv) during the pendency of any conciliation proceedings before a conciliation officer and seven days after the conclusion of such proceedings.

100 days employment to workers

†3043. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the number of workers who got employment for 100 days or less during the nineties in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have suggested any effective proposals to provide more work than the 100 days to these workers during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assessment regarding the availability of additional man-days in each area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per the quinquennial sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, estimated workforce in the country was of the order of 39.7 crore. Out of these, almost 3 crore were those who had worked less than 183 days during the reference year.

(c) and (d) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Reduction in number of organised workers

†3044. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of workers has been reduced in the organized sector from 1999 till the end of 2002;

(b) if so, the percentage of reduction during the said period; and

(c) the details of such reduction in the public sector industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per the Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment and Training estimated employment in the organised sector which was of the order of 281.13 lakh as on March, 1999 has marginally gone down to 277.89 lakh in March, 2001 (latest available).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.