

penal provision more deterrent. Meanwhile, the report of the Second National Commission has also been received. The Commission has recommended a unified law on wages including the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Government proposes to frame a law on wages and in that event, the amendments under consideration would not be required.

(d) The Minimum Wages Act provides for enforcement of minimum wages. In the Central sphere it is secured through the officers of the Central Industrial Refations Machinery while in the State sphere, through state enforcement machinery. The officers of these machineries conduct inspections regularly and advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages whenever they detect any case of non-payment or less payment of minimum wages. In case of non-adherence to the advice, there are legal and penal provisions against the defaulting employers.

#### **Rate of interest on P.F.**

987. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to enhance the rate of interest on Provident Fund accumulation for the year 2002-03 to 10.5 per cent per year as against the 9.5 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Employment opportunities**

† 988. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new employment opportunities created in Government Services, organised industries, small scale industries and unorganized sector separately during the last three years; and

(b) the number of permanent casual and contract labourers out of these respectively?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.