

Number of labour

3543. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of labour including organising sector and unorganising sector, available in the country;
- (b) the number of women workers and men workers;
- (c) whether all of them are covered under social security; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of the work force do not get hundred days work in a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) According to available information there were total 353.7 million workers out of which 264.7 were males and 89.0 were females. All workers employed in 50 notified hazardous employments are covered for compensation benefits as provided under the workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The workers employed in factories/establishments employing 10/20 or more persons, as the case may be, are eligible for gratuity, maternity, ESI, PF, Pension and Deposit-Linked Insurance benefits as admissible under the respective schemes. About 1/3rd of the employed labour force was found to be poor i.e. below the poverty line, during 1993-94.

Bonus to workers

†3544. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of labourers working in industrial sector are deprived of the benefits of bonus due to wage limit of Rs. 3,500/- under the payment of Bonus Act;
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering to bring about any amendment in Bonus Act;
- (c) if so, by when; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Due to increase in wages, some employees may become ineligible for grant of bonus. However, no specific information regarding number of employees who may have become ineligible is centrally maintained as the coverage under the Payment of Bonus Act is vast and the Act is mainly administered by the State Governments. Government is scrutinizing the demand made by the Central Trade Union Organization for removal of the upper ceiling for the purpose of payment of bonus.

Safeguarding the interests of the workers

3545. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of workers in the organised and unorganised sector in the country for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interests of the workers in the unorganised sector, including education, insurance and wage increase;

(c) the estimated number of child labour in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation in the year 1993-94, total employment in both organised and unorganised sectors in the country was of the order of 335 million. Out of 335 million, around 27.4 million was in the organised sector and the balance 308 million in the unorganised sector.

The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for the