

what was initially offered, non availability of adequate facilities of accommodation and food etc. in respect of the persons sent abroad by the registered recruiting agents, are received normally against the foreign employer/sponsor. As and when such complaints are brought to the notice of the Government, Indian Missions/local registered recruiting agents are requested/directed to settle the matter with the help of concerned Government/Sponsors. If the recruiting agents do not comply with the directions of the Government, action is taken to suspend/cancel the registration certificates of the recruiting agents. Foreign employers who violate the terms of the employment are placed in "Prior Approval Category" (Black List). On the recommendations of the Indian Missions abroad, during 2000, 11 foreign employers were placed in the PAC, while 13 foreign employers were placed in PAC during 2001.

Action Plan to Safeguard Workers' Interest

†2011. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to retrench labourers to bring down their numbers throughout the country under the pressure of foreign capitalists;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to safeguard interests of the labourers; and

(c) what action plan Government have formulated keeping in view the forthcoming hardships of the labourers?

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

(b) and (c) The Government is committed to safeguarding the legitimate interest of workers in the emerging economic environment. In keeping with this, the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of the Central Public Sector Undertaking has been further modified to provide greater protection to the workers. Moreover, a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[21 March, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

National Commission on Labour has been set up to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and evolve an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector.

Beedi Workers

†2012. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the number of beedi workers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the actual number thereof;

(c) the number of beedi workers to whom identity cards have already been issued alongwith the those to whom identity cards are yet to be issued;

(d) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to conduct any survey to ascertain the exact number of beedi workers in the country; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR • (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The estimated number of beedi workers are 44.14 lakh in the country as per the information obtained from States from time to time and the number of workers to whom identity cards have been issued is as per the Statement. (See below)

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

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