

guarantee of minimum conditions of employment to the rural and other unorganised labour;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the States that have implemented the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (c). Various suggestions have been made regarding Central Legislation to protect wages and employment and to provide for social security and other protections to workers in the unorganised sector including in the rural areas. The Government is considering these suggestions

Blind Persons in Andhra Pradesh

2609. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of male and female blind persons in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) the number of such persons in the age group of 18-35 years.

(c) whether there are separate schemes to provide employment to blind males and females; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) According to a Sample Survey conducted in 1981 by National Sample Survey Organisation there were 622 male and 920 female blind persons in rural areas and 323 male and 534 female blind persons in urban areas per 1,00,000 of population in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The information for this age group is not available. However, there were 104 male

and 79 female blind persons in rural areas and 81 male and 71 female blind persons in urban areas per 1,00,000 of population in the age group of 15-39 years in Andhra Pradesh in 1981.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. There is no separate scheme of the Central Government for providing employment to blind males and females. Both blind males and females are covered under the various existing employment schemes. However, there is 3% reservation for the physically handicapped which includes the blind, speech and hearing impaired and the orthopaedically handicapped in Group C and D posts in Central Government Ministries/Departments and Central Public Sector Undertakings. State Governments/Union Territories have also reservation for the physically handicapped varying from 2 to 3 percent.

Coverage Under E.S.I. Scheme

2610. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation has extended the wage limit for coverage under Health Insurance Scheme to Rs. 3000/- per month;

(b) if so, whether it has caused considerable discontentment amongst the workers due to poor service of the scheme; and

(c) whether Government will reconsider the above scheme and take steps for providing better services to existing members covered under the scheme only?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The proposal of ESI Corporation to enhance the wage limit for coverage of employees under the ESIC Scheme from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- per month is under consideration of the Government.