

[Translation]

#### Sub-Regional Provident Fund Offices

4638. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some Sub-Regional Provident Fund Offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Linking of Bank Branches with Satellite Network

4639. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link the branches of some banks with satellite communication network,

(b) if so, the purpose thereof and the names of the banks proposed to be linked; and

(c) the time by which these banks are likely to be linked with the satellite communication network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):  
(a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### SSI Institutional Frame Work

4640. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he stressed the urgent need for evolving an institutional frame work to facilitate the entry of small scale sector to the capital market;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has felt that this was necessary to bridge the credit gap and to set off the problems of inadequacy of working capital;

(c) if so, whether any concrete efforts in this regard, have been worked out by the Ministry under which small units can get entry into capital market; and

(d) the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):  
(a) to (d). Government has been encouraging various steps to provide access to the capital market for the

small scale sector. In order to facilitate the entry of the small scale sector into the capital market, Government has granted recognition to the over the Counter (OTC) Exchange of India on 23rd August, 1989 under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. The Exchange commenced trading in October, 1992. According to the guidelines, a company with a minimum capital of Rs. 30 lakhs is eligible for listing on the OTC Exchange as compared to Rs. 3 crores for other Stock Exchanges. Thus, the OTC Exchange allows the small scale sector to enter the capital market.

#### Children Working in Hotels

4641. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI KUNJEE LAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the number of the children engaged in hotels throughout the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that hotel owners are exploiting the children engaged in their hotels; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the engagement of children in hotels?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):  
(a) and (b). As per the 1981 census the number of main child workers working in the category of other services including hotels is 3.2 lakhs. Number of the children engaged in hotels throughout the country is not maintained.

(c) and (d). Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children below 14 years are prohibited in occupations and processes included in parts (A) and (B) of the Schedule of the Act. The working conditions of children are regulated in all employments which are not prohibited under the Child Labour (prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 including hotels. The Central Governments/ State Governments/UTs enforce the various provisions of the Act in their respective spheres. Violations of any regulatory provision of the Act are dealt with according to the rules.

#### Wage Boards for Journalists

4642. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wage boards for the working journalists and non-journalists constituted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;