

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Beedi Workers' Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was passed by both the Houses of Parliament enhancing the lower and upper ceiling to be levied from 10 paise and 50 paise respectively to Re. 1 and Rs. 5 per thousand beedis rolled. However, the rate of cess has been kept at Re. 1 per thousand beedis rolled. This would create a corpus of about Rs. 42 crore annually as against Rs. 21 crore being generated presently. Some of the welfare measures to be effected out of these additional funds include opening of new hospitals/dispensaries, enhancement of scale of benefit etc. with regard to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, some amendments are under active consideration of the Government and they are in advance stage of finalisation. The proposed amendments would reduce the period of revision of minimum wages, change the amount of compensation, provide for compounding of offences, secure redressal of grievances of workers and ensure more decentralised mechanism in implementation of the law.

[English]

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

1432. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Right Commission had evolved a sexual harassment prevention code in line with the Supreme Court directions to prevent sexual harassment at place of work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure compliance with this code in respect of Government Departments, Public undertakings, and private employers; and

(d) the directions issued to State and UT Governments to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Coaching Institutes for SCs/STs

1433. SHRI MUNI LALL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Coaching Institutes set up for the students of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes for competitive examinations to enter into the Central and State Services;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more Coaching Institutes in the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said coaching institutes are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The information is being collected from all the State Governments/UT Administrations and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) Proposals for setting up new Coaching Institutes have to be initiated by the State/UT Governments.

[Translation]

Migration of Persons from Kashmir

1434. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons have migrated to Himachal Pradesh from Kashmir due to sudden increase in terrorist activities in Kashmir since March, 1998;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some terrorists are infiltrating into Himachal Pradesh in this process; and

(c) if so, the scheme to identify such terrorists and the number of Kashmiri terrorists rounded up in Himachal Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No such report has been received in this regard.