

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2950  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003  
LABOUR LAWS  
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

**Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has decided to make special labour laws for the labourers engaged in industrial units set up in special economic zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the said changes; and
- (d) the benefits likely to accrue to the labourers and industrialists as a result of these changes?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

- (a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2950 FOR 22.12.2003

(a) to (d): There is, at present, no proposal before the Central Government to make special labour laws for the labourers engaged in the industrial units set up in the Special Economic Zone(SEZ).However, the State Governments of Gujarat and Karnataka had proposed to seek relaxation in some provisions of the Central Laws through enactment so as to facilitate setting up of Special Economic Zones in their respective States. The salient features of those proposed laws are enumerated below: -

(i) The Gujarat Special Economic Zone Ordinance, 2003

(a) Delegation of powers of the Labour Commissioner to the Development Commissioner of SEZ under certain labour laws.

(b) Certain amendments in the Factories Act, 1948, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(c) Consolidated return under certain labour laws; and

(d) Application of Chapter V-D of the Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.

(ii) The Karnataka Special Economic Zones Development Bill, 2003

(a) Constitution of Unit Approval Committee to grant approval, clearance, permissions and licences for the establishment and operation of units in the Special Economic Zones.

(b) Notify an officer or agency for carrying out inspections under certain labour laws.

(c) Specify single return for reporting under certain labour laws.

These changes were considered necessary to facilitate establishment of the Special Economic Zone in the States for promotion of export activities. The intention is to provide certain facilities to the developer in creation of infrastructure as well as to make applicable a flexible labour policy to the units in such zones. It is expected that establishment of such zones, among others, would create more jobs and also conducive atmosphere to boost economic growth besides exports benefiting the labourers as well as the industrialists.