GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240 ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009 WELFARE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments lag behind in terms of implementation of welfare measures for construction workers and utilization of funds meant for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines/directives to the State Governments recently to take special steps and respond within a week in terms of measures taken or being taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(e) the further steps taken or being taken by the Government for implementation of welfare measures for construction workers alongwith the purposeful utilization of welfare funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e): A statement is annexed.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1240 FOR 13.07.2009 BY SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI REGARDING WELFARE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

(a) to (e): The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. Under these Acts, the States have to frame and notify Rules, constitute Advisory Committees/expert Committees, appoint various authorities for registration of workers, cess collection, Inspection and Appealing Authority and constitute State Welfare Boards to frame and implement various welfare schemes in pursuance of the said Acts. The State Governments are collecting cess and the same is transferred to the State Welfare Boards. State Welfare Boards are implementing various welfare schemes for building and other construction workers. Some States are in the process of formulating different welfare schemes. The States are at various stages of implementation of these Acts. Till date 27 State/Union Territories have notified Rules under the Act, 26 have constituted Welfare Boards, 24 have notified Implementing/Cess collecting authorities and 26 have constituted State Advisory Committees.

The Government is monitoring the implementation of the Acts in the States/Union Territories. The Government has been issuing directions from time to time to the State/Union Territories for speedy implementation of these Acts. In this regard, under the directions of Prime Minister's Office, a Special Group had been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment) to monitor and review the implementation of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers welfare Cess Act, 1996. The Special Group is holding region wise meetings with the State Governments and 15 such meetings have already been held in different regions.