

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3357

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

REFORM IN LABOUR LAWS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the current labour laws protect only a small percentage of workers in the organised sector;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to bring labour in the concurrent list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to reform labour laws in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b): Labour Laws have been enacted to protect the interests of workers engaged both in organized and unorganized sectors. The Ministry reviews labour laws from time to time and carries out amendments in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy after consulting the stakeholders and taking into account the overall interests of the workers.

(c) to (e): 'Labour' is already in the Concurrent List and both the Central and the State Governments are empowered to enact legislations.

(f): Recently, amendments have been carried out under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Apprentices Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (now called Employees' Compensation Act, 1923). The Government has also introduced Bills in Parliament for amendment in the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, the Mines Act, 1952, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

In addition, the Government has approved for introducing Bills in Parliament for amendment in the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, the Building and Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.