

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1935

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

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

- (a) the details of issues discussed during the International Labour Conference which was held recently in Geneva;
- (b) the issues on which views were expressed from Indian side in the conference along with the details thereof;
- (c) whether the conference would have an impact on the opportunities of employment in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The 102nd International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva in June 2013 covered the topical issues of employment, Social Protection, Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Green Jobs. A discussion on the strategic objective of social dialogue took place under the follow up to the 2008 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Social Justice for a fair globalization.

A review of remaining measures previously adopted by the conference under article 33 of the ILO Constitution to secure compliance by Myanmar with the recommendation of the commission of enquiry on forced labour also took place during the ILC, 2013 held at Geneva. In addition, the following standing items were placed in the ILC:

- I. Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General
- II. Programme and Budget proposals for 2014-15 and other questions
- III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

(b) to (d): A tripartite delegation led by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, MinisU, State for Labour & Employment attended the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference. Hon'ble MOS stated that India has had a system of social dialogue and tripartism which has functioned well and the Central Government has also made a determined effort to build up a system of transparent dialogue between worker's and employer's organizations. Government of India is committed to the ethos and culture of tripartism. He added that we have regular consultations with the social partners to obtain a consensus for enacting new laws or ushering changes in the existing laws. India has a very effective and comprehensive system of Disputes Settlement. Various statutory and non-statutory measures exist for this. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 deals with the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and provides certain safeguards to the workers in the case of unlawful lay-off, retrenchment and closure of the industry.

In the Plenary on the Director General, ILO Report 'Towards the ILO Centenary: Realities, Renewal and Tripartite Commitment', the Indian delegation stated that the present day 'World of Work', is characterized by 'demographic and technological changes', 'environmental concerns vis-a-vis development challenges' and the primary goal of overcoming inequalities. For developing countries poverty alleviation remains the biggest challenge. Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless we give equal importance to its three aspects - social, economic and environmental.

During the discussion on the ILO Budget in Programme and Finance Committee the Indian delegation appreciated that areas of critical importance such as promoting more and better jobs for inclusive growth, jobs and skills for youth, creating and extending social protection floors, decent work in the rural economy, formalization of the informal economy etc. have been focussed in the strategic budget for 2014-15.

In the Committee on Sustainable Development and Green Jobs the Indian delegation recognized that ecological sustainability was important for poverty reduction, economic and social development. Employment creation and the promotion of opportunities were key elements to achieve inclusive and equitable development. India had put in place policy instruments to limit the ecological impact of economic activities. It had developed a national action plan on climate change through a multi-stakeholders task force on green jobs and climate change. The taskforce had submitted its interim report, including recommendations. Employment generation was a priority and a green economy had the potential to create more jobs. Government of India was concerned about the definition of 'green jobs' and believed that a country perspective for the concept needed to be developed. Skills development and capacity building were essential to the creation of green jobs. India had started a mapping process at state level to identify entry points. The Government

raised awareness of social partners, training

Institutes and NGOs on green jobs. Finally, we stressed that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio +20 clearly showed that each country needed to develop its pathway to sustainable development.

In the Committee on Social dialogue in context of crisis and transitions, it was mentioned that India recognizes the ILO's effort in promoting of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work with member States. It is important to advocate decent work for all, recognize the importance of tripartism and actively engaged with social partners and other stakeholders in the formulation of labour policy.

ILO should provide technical support, contribute in capacity building arrangements, sensitize, educate and convince member countries about social dialogue process.

In the Committee on Employment and Social Protection in the New Demographic Context, our main concern was that policies should be country determined and country driven. Several amendments which were consistent with the Indian perspective were also supported,

India being a founding member of the ILO and also a permanent member of the Governing Body since 1922 as a country of Chief Industrial importance is deeply committed to provide decent quality employment to our vast workforce in accordance with the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO.