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Title : Need to address the problems of contract and casual labourers employed in Paradip, Tirtol and Kujang sub-divisions of BSNL's Cuttack Telecom Division.

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI (JAGATSINGHPUR): I would like to raise the issue that Cuttack Telecom Division of BSNL has appointed 400 contract and casual labourers under various sub-divisions in technical and non-technical categories. The contract and casual workers employed in Paradip, Tirtol and Kujang sub-divisions of BSNL's Cuttack Telecom Division have been working for more than fifteen years in various capacities without any statutory provisions like EPF, identity card etc. They get a nominal wage ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2200 only per month. As per Labour Law, labourers who have been working in a company or PSUs for more than 10 years in spite of change of contractors and have not crossed the age of superannuation and are medically fit, should be absorbed as regular employees in the order of seniority. In this context, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Labour and Employment to direct the concerned authority, i.e., BSNL to classify the category of contract and casual labourers working in Paradip, Tirtol and Kujang sub-division of BSNL's Cuttack Telecom Division and regularize the services of those who have completed ten years at least in BSNL and pay minimum wages to them as per Labour Department's latest notification. The Muster Roll and record with regard to all the contract and casual labourers employed in above said sub-divisions must be maintained properly and monthly wages should be paid to them on a fixed date of the month in the presence of an officer of BSNL, and identity card along with the facility of social security benefits like EPF, gratuity etc. as per Indian Contract and Abolition Act, 1970 should be extended to them. In present situation of rise in prices of essential commodities, the Minister of Labour and Employment needs to take steps to address the problems being faced by these poor contract and casual labourers who have always become the source of exploitation in the hands of contractors and employers in spite of various labour laws and welfare activities of Government.