

**Liberalisation of labour laws**

1611. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to liberalise labour laws across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when this process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Amendments in labour laws are considered keeping in view the socio-economic changes in the country as well as other parts of the world with an intention to improving economic well-being of the workers and the need to provide a safe, decent working environment harmonized with the need of the economy to be productive and competitive.

The Government is actively considering the amendments in the Child Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1986, the Factories Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Apprenticeship Act, 1961 and the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988.

The Inter-Ministerial/Public/Tripartite consultation is in progress.

**Housing facilities for tea garden labourers**

1612. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that tea garden labourers both permanent as well as casual in the States do not have proper housing facilities or accommodation and are deprived of minimum living standards, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 mandates the employers of plantations which include the tea estates to provide basic welfare services and amenities like housing, medical, primary education, water supply, sanitation, canteens etc. The workers are paid wages under agreements between the tea producing States and representative bodies of Labour and Trade Unions with the