

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
AMENDMENTS IN LABOUR LAWS
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend various Labour Laws such as Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, Factories Act, 1948 etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy.

The Bills to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 to expand its coverage and allow maintenance of registers and submission of returns through soft devices, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 to change the definition of employer, family and workers, adding a new chapter on safety and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 expanding the scope of qualifications of Presiding Officers of Labour Courts or Tribunals,establishing Grievance Redressal Machinery and empowering the Labour Court or Tribunal to execute the awards etc. have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Besides,Bills to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to provide flexibility in the matter of employment of women workers during night shift with adequate safeguards for their safety, dignity, honour and transportation from the factory premises, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 so that teachers in educational institutes benefit from it, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 to make it gender-neutral and the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 to enable utilization of medical facilities of the Employees State Insurance Corporation for implementing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana were also introduced in the Lok Sabha which have since lapsed.