

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2016
AMENDMENTS TO FACTORIES ACT, 1948**

2331. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Factories Act, 1948 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether this will encourage factories to divide their departments into separate factories to escape from the said Act and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps taken in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow the inspectors with B.Tech. degree only to visit factories for inspection; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a): The Government introduced the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014 in the Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Parliament Standing Committee on Labour. The Parliament Standing Committee submitted its report to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in December, 2014. The major amendments proposed in the Factories Act, 1948, inter-alia, include provisions relating to imposing obligation upon the occupier to make a provision of Personal Protective Equipment for workers exposed to various hazards; providing canteens facilities in factories; providing for shelters or rest room and lunch rooms in respect of factories employing seventy five or more workers; providing drinking water in all Factories irrespective of number of workers; enhancement of penalties for different violations; permitting women in night shifts if adequate safeguards as regards occupational safety and health, provision of shelter, rest room, lunch rooms, night crèches and ladies' toilets, adequate protection of their dignity, honour, safety and transportation exist.

(b): The existing provisions of Section 4 of the Factories Act, 1948 empowers the State Government to declare different departments to be separate factories.

(c) & (d): The Government has consulted various stakeholders which includes Government's representatives, Employers Association & Trade Unions to further amend the Factories Act with regard to, inter-alia, the prescribing qualifications of the Inspectors.
