

**23**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR  
(2011-2012)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

**'THE INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN (REGULATION OF  
EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT  
BILL, 2011'**

**TWENTY-THIRD REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2011/Agrahayana, 1933 (Saka)**

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EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT  
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Presented to Lok Sabha on

Laid in Rajya Sabha on



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

**December, 2011/Agrahayana, 1933 (Saka)**

## **COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

**(2011-12)**

### **SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL - CHAIRMAN**

2. Shri Raj Babbar
3. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
4. Shri Virendra Kumar
5. Shri Pakauri Lal
6. Shri Narahari Mahato
7. Shri Hari Manjhi
8. Shri P. Balram Naik
9. Ms. Mausam Noor
10. Shri Jayaram Pangi
11. Shri Sanjay Dina Patil
12. Shri S. Pakkirappa
13. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
14. Ms. J. Shantha
15. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure
- \*16. Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao
17. Vacant
18. Vacant
19. Vacant
20. Vacant
21. Vacant

### **RAJYA SABHA**

22. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay
23. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
24. Shri Aayanur Manjunatha
25. Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
26. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany
27. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
28. Shri Ranbir Singh Parjapati
29. Shri Rajaram
30. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
31. Shri G. N. Ratanpuri

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\* Nominated *w.e.f* 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.

## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Additional Director
3. Smt. Archana Srivastva - Committee Officer

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## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairman, Standing Committee on Labour (2011-12), having been authorized by the Committee do present this Twenty Third Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011'

2. The Government introduced 'The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011' in the Rajya Sabha on 18.08.2011 which was referred to the Committee on 24.08.2011 by the Speaker, Lok Sabha under Rule 331E(b) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha for examination and report.

3. The Committee examined representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment on 03.10.2011 and took their evidence on the Bill.

4. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at their sitting held 14th December, 2011.

5. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for furnishing detailed written notes on the subject and giving the information as desired

by the Committee in connection with the examination of the Bill and rendering evidence before the Committee.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

7. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

**New Delhi;**

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011**  
**23 Agrahayana, 1933(Saka)**

**HEMANAND BISWAL**

**CHAIRMAN**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

# **REPORT**

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTORY**

The Government introduced the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011 in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2011 further to amend the parent Act enacted by Parliament in 1979. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 was enacted to safeguard the interests of migrant workers. The Act applies to every establishment and every contractor who employs or who employed five or more Inter-State Migrant Workmen on any day of the preceding 12 months. The Act provides for:-

- (a) Registration of all principal employers/contractors employing migrant labour.
- (b) Licensing of contractors – no contractor can recruit any migrant labour without obtaining license from the appropriate Government.
- (c) Issue of passbook affixed with a passport-sized photograph of the workman indicating the name and the place of the establishment where the worker is employed, the period of



- employment, rates of wages, etc. to every inter-state migrant workman.
- (d) Payment of minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Principal employer to nominate a representative to be present at the time of disbursement of wages to the migrant workman by the contractor.
  - (e) Payment of equal wages for inter-state migrant workmen performing similar nature of work along with the local labourers.
  - (f) Payment of journey allowance including payment of wages during the period of journey.
  - (g) Payment of displacement allowance.
  - (h) Suitable residential accommodation.
  - (i) Medical facilities free of charge.
  - (j) Protective clothing.
  - (k) Reporting by the contractor the incidence of fatal accident or serious injury of such workman to the specified authorities of both the States and also the next of kin of the workman.

2. As per census 2001, around 31.4 crore persons migrated for various reasons within the country. Out of these, 2.99 crore migrated for reasons of employment. The system of employment of

inter-state migrant labour is an exploitative one. Such migrant labour is recruited from various parts of a particular State through contractors or agents for work outside that State in large construction and other projects. This system lends itself to various abuses.

3. A Task Force was therefore, constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for amendment of Labour Laws concerning women and children, which recommended that the title of the 'Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979' be changed to 'Inter State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979' in order to make it gender neutral. This recommendation of the Task Force was accepted and accordingly the title of the Act is proposed to be changed as 'Inter State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979' to make it gender neutral and also to substitute the words 'worker' and 'workers' in place of words 'workman' and 'workmen'.

4. The Committee now proceed with the examination of the Bill referred to them in the succeeding chapter.

## CHAPTER II

### **CLAUSE BY CLAUSE ANALYSIS OF 'THE INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011'**

The Ministry in their explanatory note, furnishing reasons for proposed amendments, stated that :-

The original Act is called Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. The amendment is proposed to make the Act gender neutral.

2.2 In this context, when the Committee, during the briefing meeting, desired to know as to whether there had been any such instances where any woman worker had been denied justice or exploited on the basis of the nomenclature of the Act, the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment replied in the negative.

2.3 **Substitution of certain expressions** - Throughout the principal Act, unless otherwise expressly provided, for the words "workman" and "workmen", wherever they occur, the words "worker" and "workers" shall respectively be substituted, and such

other consequential amendments as the rules of grammar may require shall also be made.

2.4 Asked to furnish the number of registered principal employers/contractors as per the provisions of the Act, the Ministry furnished the following State-wise list of number of registered principal employers/contractors:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the States</b>	<b>No. of Principal Employer</b>	<b>No. of Contractor</b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46	07
2.	Bihar	56	20
3.	Chandigarh		
4.	North Eastern States	46	179
5.	Gujarat	--	20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	07	01
7.	Haryana	--	--
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	--	--
9.	Jharkhand	--	--
10.	Karnataka	--	--
11.	Kerala	53	--
12.	Maharashtra	10	17
13.	Madhya Pradesh	--	--
14.	New Delhi	--	--
15.	Orissa	05	09
16.	Punjab	--	--
17.	Rajasthan	11	07
18.	Tamil Nadu	06	23
19.	Uttar Pradesh	--	--

20.	Uttaranchal	--	--
21.	West Bengal	--	--
22.	Chattisgarh	--	02

The Ministry further stated as under :-

"As per the Act, every principal employer of an establishment to which the Act applies is required to obtain certificate of registration from registering officer of the appropriate government. Similarly every contractor who proposes to recruit or employ inter state migrant worker is required to obtain a license from the specified authority. The Central Government and State Governments appoint registering officers and licensing officers and define their respective limits of jurisdiction and powers."

2.5 When asked about the reported cases where the principal employers/ contractors hired migrant labour without the licences/approval of the appropriate Government and the action taken against them, the Ministry informed that there were 25 principal employers and 83 contractors and action against them was initiated by way of filing complaints against the erring employers in the appropriate court.

2.6 Regarding the number of migrant labour all over the country, the representatives of the Ministry deposed before the Committee that :-

"I must admit that as of now we do not have an annual data of how many people migrate from one State to the other. We do not have that data. But through this project, we are trying to understand the whole process of migration and in this we have worked out a Tripartite MoU between the State of Orissa, the State of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Government where we will set up a Joint Group which will actually monitor and see whether it is good to be replicated further.

They further informed:

"We have recently constituted a Committee, which is examining the scope and how the amendments will be made in the laws. After taking a comprehensive view first we will take further actions. We find the same situations everywhere like Delhi as commented by the honorable members."

2.7 When asked the details of the major recommendations made by the Task Force which submitted its report to the Government in June, 2006 and what is the status of recommendations made by the Task Force, the Ministry furnished the following statement:

Recommendations	Implementation status
<p><b>1. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:</b></p> <p>(a) The title of the Act should be made gender neutral, namely the Workers' Compensation Act.</p> <p>(b) Provide for medical examination by a female practitioner free of charge, at the discretion of women worker.</p>	<p>(a) The matter is being examined in the Ministry alongwith other amendments.</p> <p>(b) The matter is under consideration in the Ministry.</p>
<p><b>2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:</b></p> <p>(a) To provide for 50% of the members on the Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee as women,</p> <p>(b) Include the education of child labour in Sec. 13(a).</p> <p>(c) No child below the age of 11 years should be employed at all in any establishment/occupation/process, even where children upto 14 years are permitted to work under regulated conditions.</p> <p>(d) Providing a minimum penalty of Rs. 2000 under the Act.</p> <p>(e) The fines be used for education of</p>	<p>(a) Recommendations of the Task Force were discussed in Central Monitoring Committee. The Central Monitoring Committee recommended that 33% of the seats in the Technical Advisory Committee be reserved for women.</p> <p>(b) The Working Group formed to look into issues of amendment of Child Labour Act has recommended that education of child labour as one of the objectives for framing rules under Section 13. Views of the State Government have also been obtained.</p> <p>(c) The Working Group did not agree with the Task Force recommendations.</p> <p>(d) The Act provides for imprisonment and or fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- which is higher than that recommended by the Task Force. Hence proposal was not accepted.</p>

<p>Child Labour.</p>	<p>(e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M.C. Mehta V/s. State of Tamil Nadu in 1996 has directed the state Governments to set up child labour welfare fund in which fines collected from the employers are to be utilized for the welfare of child labour and their families.</p>
<p><b>3. Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976:</b></p> <p>(a) To provide for more representation of women in the Vigilance Committees under the Act.</p> <p>(b) Provide for seeking cooperation and participation of women's agencies to channelize sufficient credit to the freed-bonded women labourer.</p> <p>(c) Vigilance Committees to collect gender and age disaggregated data on bonded labour.</p> <p>(d) Enhancement of the fines under the Act.</p> <p>(e) Provide for forfeiture of moveable/immovable property of the convicted person for realization of other fine imposed, cancellation or suspension of license, permit etc.</p> <p>(f) Utilization of fines realized for the rehabilitation of freed bonded labour.</p>	<p>(a), (b) &amp; (c) Ministry has written to the State Governments to provide greater representation to women in the vigilance committees constituted at District and sub-division level and also to provide gender and age-wise disaggregated data of bonded labour.</p> <p>(d) &amp; (e) Recommendations were not accepted as the penalty prescribed under the Act is adequate.</p> <p>(f) A Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of bonded labour is in operation under which an assistance Rs. of 20,000/- per bonded labour is provided. Contribution for this assistance is shared equally between the Centre and the State.</p>
<p><b>4. Contract Labour (Regulation and Prohibition) Act, 1970:</b></p> <p>(a) To provide for representative of DWCD on the Central Board to take care of the women's interest,</p>	<p>(a) &amp;(b) The Ministry has requested to nominate their representative to the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board.</p>



<p>(b) To provide for half the members of the Central Advisory Board and State Advisory Board as women.</p> <p>(c) To provide separate rest room facility and toilets for women.</p>	<p>Ministry has also written to Ministry of Railways and Mines to nominate women as their representatives. The Ministry has also requested State Governments to provide greater representation to women in State Advisory Contract Labour Board.</p> <p>(c) The Act already provides for provisions of rest rooms, toilets etc.</p>
<p><b>5. Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979:</b></p> <p>(a) The title of the Act should be made gender-neutral namely the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act and</p> <p>(b) Provide for grant of maternity leave to female Inter-State Migrant Workers and crèches for children of migrant workers.</p>	<p>(a) The bill for amendment has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 18.08.2011.</p> <p>(b) Under Section 21 of Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is applicable to migrant workers, which has provision for maternity leave to female migrant workers. Providing for crèche facility is already available under the provisions of the Act.</p>
<p><b>6. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976:</b> To provide for appointment of 50% women officers to decide claims/complaints,</p>	<p>Ministry has written to state Governments to provide for appointments of more women officers to decide the cases of claims/complaints under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.</p>
<p><b>7. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936:</b></p> <p>(a) An employed person shall not make a nomination in favour of a person other than a member of his family. The definition of family should also be incorporated in Section 2 of the Act.</p> <p>(b) Make suitable revision of the wage levels to which the Act applies.</p> <p>(c) The fines prescribed should be revised in the light of the current income-levels in the country.</p>	<p>(a) The Payment of Wages Act was last amended in 2005. The recommendations of the Task Force will be considered at the time of next amendment of the Act.</p> <p>(b) The wage level upto which the Act is applicable has now been enhanced from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 6500/-.</p> <p>(c) The Act has been amended and there has been 7.5 times enhancement in</p>

	the penalty over and above the existing penalty.
<p><b>8. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951:-</b></p> <p>(a) No child below the age of 11 years shall be allowed to work in plantation falling under the Act.</p> <p>(b) Provision of crèches facilities.</p> <p>(c) More women Inspectors may be appointed; one-third Welfare Officers should be women, education facilities for children below the age of 14 years etc.</p>	<p>(a) The matter is under consideration of the Govt.</p> <p>(b) Provision is already available.</p> <p>(c) Ministry has written to state governments to appoint more women inspectors and welfare officers under the Act.</p>
<p><b>9. Minimum Wages Act, 1948:-</b></p> <p>To provide for 10% of the Inspectors to be appointed under the Act as Women. Doctors/Teachers/Panchayat Members should be made Inspectors under the Act.</p>	No need to amend the Act. Ministry has written to state Governments to provide for greater representation to women as Inspectors under the Act.
<p><b>10. Factories Act, 1948:-</b></p> <p>(a) Restrictions on working of women and young persons in cleaning, lubricating and adjusting machinery in motion. Prohibition of employment of women in dangerous operations.</p> <p>(b) Separate lunch rooms and rest rooms for women.</p> <p>(c) Creche facility in the factories.</p> <p>(d) Permitting women to work in night shift in the factories etc.</p>	<p>(a) These provisions have been included under Section 22 of the proposal of comprehensive amendments to the Factories Act.</p> <p>(b) These provisions have been included under section 47 in the proposal of comprehensive amendments to the Factories Act.</p> <p>(c) There is already provision for crèche facility in an establishment employing 20 or more women.</p> <p>(d) The bill has been introduced in the Parliament on 16.10.2005.</p>
<p><b>11. Employee's State Insurance Act, 1948:</b></p> <p>That the ESIC Act may be amended to provide for the benefits under this Act to employees in all such establishments which are covered by the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.</p>	The two Acts are mutually exclusive. The benefits of ESIC Act can not be extended to employees which are covered under the Maternity Benefit Act. Therefore, there is no need to amend the Act.

**12. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961:**

To provide various maternity benefits available to Central Government employees, such as maternity leave (fully paid) 135 days to female workers and paternity leave for 15 days to male workers under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, also.

The Ministry has already initiated action to amend the Maternity Benefit Act to increase the amount of medical bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- to women workers.

## **OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee note that the Government propose to amend the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 through the present Bill only to the extent by substituting the words `workman and `workmen' with that of `worker' and `workers' in order to make it gender neutral. The proposed amendment is pursuant to the recommendation made by the Task Force constituted by the Government of India to suggest amendments in the labour laws concerning women and children. The Committee were informed by the representatives of the Ministry that a Committee has already been constituted to take a comprehensive view on the amendments required in the existing Act. The Committee also learnt that the Government have no**

**data on the number of migrant workers in each State. Besides, the Government do not even have the information regarding licensed/unlicensed contractors in the States. More so, the Government have not made any concrete and fruitful efforts to ensure that contractors and employers mandatorily register the workers under them so that they can avail of social benefits under the Act. The Committee have also not come across any reported case(s) of gender discrimination under the present Act. The Committee are convinced that by mere substitution of the words `workman' and `workmen' with `worker' and `workers' will neither ameliorate the conditions nor address the substantial issues like registration, passbook, payment of minimum and equal wages, journey and displacement allowance, free medical facilities, suitable residential accommodation etc. of the migrant workers.**

**The Committee are of the considered view that Government should wait for the recommendations of the Committee already constituted to have comprehensive review of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.**

**The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Bill should be returned to the Government with a request to bring a comprehensive amendment Bill so that the problems of the migrant workers could be addressed in entirety.**

**New Delhi;**

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011  
23 Agrahayana, 1933(Saka)**

**HEMANAND BISWAL**

**CHAIRMAN  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**



**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LABOUR HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2011.**

The Committee met from 1130 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room No.53, Parliament House, New Delhi to have briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment on '**The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011**'

**PRESENT**

**Shri Hemanand Biswal – CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS  
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Raj Babbar
3. Dr. Virendra Kumar
4. Shri Narahari Mahato
5. Shri Hari Manjhi
6. Shri P. Balram Naik
7. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
8. Shri Sanjay D. Patil
9. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

**RAJYA SABHA**

10. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
11. Shri Aayanur Manjunatha
12. Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
13. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany
14. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
15. Shri Rajaram
16. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri



## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri B.S. Dahiya - Director
3. Shri Arvind Sharma - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja - Under Secretary

### **Witnesses**

#### **Ministry of Labour and Employment**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the Officer</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi,	Secretary (L&E)
2.	Shri Anil Swarup	Director General (Labour Welfare)

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed and congratulated Shri Mrutyunjay Sarangi on his appointment as Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment. The Chairman then welcomed the other representatives of the Ministry convened for briefing the Committee on "The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011". After introduction by the representatives of the Ministry, the Committee were briefed on the amendment proposed in the Bill. Thereafter, the Members sought clarifications on the amendment proposed. The

Members pointed out mainly, the following deficiencies and concerns:-

- (i) the nomenclature of the Bill in Hindi indicated as though the Bill had been passed by the Parliament;
- (ii) lack of data regarding inter-state migration of workers;
- (iii) need for ensuring essential facilities to the migrant workers as per provisions of the Act;
- (iv) the other recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Government on the subject and the status of implementation of their recommendations;
- (v) known cases of violation of the existing Act and action against the defaulting contractors;
- (vi) compulsory registration of migrant workers by contractors;
- (vii) issuance of Identity Cards to migrant workers;
- (viii) the problem faced by the Government while implementing this enactment during the past 30 years and the experience of the Government;

- (ix) infiltration of labour from some neighbouring countries; and
- (x) need for a comprehensive review of the existing Act.

3. The Chairman then thanked the representatives of the Ministry for free and frank replies to the queries of the Members on the subject. The Chairman also directed the Secretary to furnish written replies to the queries raised by the Members which could not be replied during the meeting, within a fortnight along with the replies to the List of Points handed over to him.

4. A copy of the verbatim proceedings was kept for record.

**The Committee then adjourned.**

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LABOUR HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2011.**

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1600 hrs in Room No.116, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi to consider and adopt the draft Reports on 'The Mines (Amendment) Bill, 2011' and 'The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Hemanand Biswal - Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Dr. Virendra Kumar
3. Shri Pakauri Lal
4. Shri Narahari Mahato
5. Shri Hari Manjhi
6. Shri P. Balram Naik
7. Shri Jayaram Pangi
8. Shri S. Pakkirappa
9. Shri Mahendra Kumar Roy
10. Ms. J. Shantha
11. Shri Bhausheeb Rajaram Wakchaure

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14. Shri Aayanur Manjunatha
15. Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan
16. Smt. Renubala Pradhan
17. Shri G.N. Ratanpuri

## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Devender Singh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ashok Sajwan - Additional Director
3. Shri Arvind Sharma - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Bharti S. Tuteja - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and apprised them about the draft Reports on 'The Mines (Amendment) Bill, 2011' and 'The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2011'

3. The Committee took up the draft Reports for consideration. The Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modification.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

**The Committee then adjourned.**