

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

AWARENESS ABOUT GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

305. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any campaign to spread the awareness of Government supported schemes for daily wage workers, if so, the details thereof including the expenditure incurred on such programmes;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make a uniform minimum daily wage across the country; and**
- (c) the criteria for deciding the minimum wages and the time limit for its revision?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c): As per the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, the Government is mandated to provide Social Security to the workers of unorganized sector including daily wage workers by formulating suitable welfare schemes on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc. The details of the social security schemes available for unorganised sector workers including daily wage workers are as follow:

(i) Life and Disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

(ii) The health and maternity benefits are insured through Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). It provides health insurance coverage upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs per family for secondary and tertiary care related hospitalization.

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(iii) Old age protection is provided through Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) in the form of monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years to unorganized workers.

Apart from above, other schemes such as Public Distribution System through One Nation One Ration Card scheme under National Food Security Act, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kausal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Rojgar Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, PMSVANidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana etc. are also available for the unorganized sector workers including daily wage workers depending upon their eligibility criteria.

Provision of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for cost of living allowance as a component of minimum wages. Accordingly, the Central Government revises the cost of living allowance called as Variable Dearness Allowance (V.D.A) on basic rates of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, every six months effective from 1st April and 1st October every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers to protect the minimum wages against inflation. Recently the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and subsumed under the Code on Wages, 2019 and the components of minimum wages stipulated therein also provide for cost of living allowance. Further, the Code makes minimum wages universally applicable across employments and thus moves ahead from restrictive applicability of minimum wages limited to scheduled employments as provided for under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

The provision under the code are yet to come into force.
