

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6882

ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002

WELFARE FUNDS FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;RAMSHETH THAKUR;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of workers working in unorganised sector;
- (b) whether majority of the workers in the unorganised sector is not covered under any welfare scheme/funds;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to create welfare funds for unorganised workers and reformulate welfare schemes for beedi workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there are persistent demand for setting up welfare funds for agriculture workers and those employed in the beedi sector, salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a): As per Sample Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1999-2000 about 37 crore workers are employed in the unorganized sector

(b) to (f): The Government has set up Welfare Funds for some categories of unorganised labour like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. Besides, there are a number of welfare schemes like Janshree Bima Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Employment Oriented Schemes funded by the Central Government for the benefit of workers in the unorganised sector. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide some kind of social security cover to the unorganised workers in other sectors including salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms etc. by exploring the possibility of constituting similar welfare fund mechanism. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a welfare fund for agricultural workers, but the Government has launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana -2001 to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers in selected 50 districts over a span of 3 years. The scheme aims to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. The agricultural worker is required to pay Re.1/- per day or Rs. 365/- per year and the contribution of the Government is Rs.2/- per day or Rs.730 per year per beneficiary.