

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4377

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

WELFARE OF ALL WORKERS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision recently to introduce a scheme for the welfare of the labourers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government to the States including, Punjab and Maharashtra under the aforesaid scheme, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has not taken any decision to introduce a scheme for the welfare of the labourers. However, the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Scheme was launched in January 2004 on pilot basis in 50 districts of the country including Punjab and Maharashtra for the workers in the unorganised sector. The scheme envisaged the benefit of coverage under Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Personal Accident Insurance cover and Old Age Pension. About 3500 workers have been enrolled under the scheme. The scheme was not found workable due to some inherent shortcomings like no statutory backing, voluntary in nature and non-availability of employers' contribution. Presently, there is no fresh enrollment under the scheme.