

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3752  
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010  
ASSISTANCE TO UNORGANISED WORKERS  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand;Yadav Shri Sharad

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

- (a) whether a large number of unorganised workers are engaged in household industries such as beedi rolling, agarbatti and papad making etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to unorganised workers including such workers during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether any mechanism exists to ensure whether the funds are actually being utilised for the welfare of such workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): A large number of unorganized workers are engaged in occupations such as beedi rolling, agarbatti making, papad making etc. There are about 55 lakh workers engaged in beedi rolling. It is estimated that about 80% of these workers are gharkhata workers (home based workers). The authentic data of workers engaged in Agarbatti and Pappad making is not available.

(c): Statement indicating to financial assistance provided to such workers is annexed. The Government has constituted Welfare Fund to provide welfare measures to the beedi workers and their family members. These include health care, housing assistance, education to children and group insurance etc. In addition to this, the Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution for National Social Security Board. The functions of the Board, inter-alia, include making recommendations to the Central Government regarding formulation of social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government. The Board has met twice and has recommended extension of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY) and Old Age Pension to certain categories of unorganized workers.

(d) & (e): The beedi welfare scheme are administered & implemented by the office of the 9 Welfare Commissioners in the field. These schemes are monitored from time to time. The officers and the field staff ensure that the funds are actually utilized for the welfare of these workers.