

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3859

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

FUND FOR UNORGANISED WORKERS

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Social Security Fund and National Welfare Fund for all workers engaged in unorganised sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during each year of the Eleventh Plan and the number of workers who are likely to be benefited therefrom;
- (c) whether the Government has started an imitative 'Swaralamban' to encourage the workers/people from the unorganized sector to subscribe to New Pension Scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the role of State Government in implementing these programmes?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In the Budget Speech for the year 2010-2011, the Finance Minister has proposed to set up National Social Security Fund for unorganised sector workers with initial allocation of Rs.1,000 crore. This fund will support schemes for weavers, toddy tappers, rickshaw pullers, bidi workers etc. There is, however, no proposal to set up a National Welfare Fund for unorgaised workers.

(c) to (e): In the Budget Speech for the year 2010-2011, the Finance Minister stated that to encourage the people from the unorgansied sector voluntarily save for the retirement and to lower the cost of operations of the New Pension Scheme (NPS), Government will contribute Rs. 1000 per year each NPS account opened in the year 2010-11. This initiative, 'Swavalamban' will be available to those who join NPS, with a minimum contribution of Rs. 1000 and a maximum contribution of Rs. 12000 per annum during the financial year 2010-11. The scheme will be available for another three years. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the current financial year. It will benefit about 10 lakh NPS subscribers of the unorganized sector. State Governments would also be appealed to contribute a similar amount to the scheme and participate in the scheme.