

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2091

ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009

COVERAGE OF SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES

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

- (a) whether most of the workforce in the unorganised sector are not covered under various social welfare schemes implemented for unorganised workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether International Labour Organisation (ILO) study has indicated that India needs to invest merely 4 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to provide social security to all its citizens;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the workforce engaged in the unorganised sector under various social welfare schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing and education to the children etc. have been formulated. State Governments have also constituted certain occupational specific welfare funds.

(c): The Social Security Policy Briefings paper entitled "Can low income countries afford basic social security?" published by the Social Security Department of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) gives a projected 3.9 percent domestically financed expenditure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India to provide social security to its citizens.

(d) & (e): Recognising the need for social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.