

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:423  
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010  
SOCIAL SECURITY TO MIGRANT WORKERS  
Pandey Saroj;Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether there is inter and intra State migration of labourers/workers in search of livelihood over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of male and female labourers/workers including migrant labourers/workers at present in the country, separately, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes measures to arrest this trend of migration;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the concrete measures taken by the Union Government for safety, social security and other benefits to the migrant labourers/workers;
- (g) whether the Union Government proposes to provide mandatory identity cards to the migrated labourers/workers in the country; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria to be followed in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 423 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2010 RAISED BY kumari saroj pandey: Shri Devji M. Patel REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY TO MIGRANT WORKERS.

- (a): Yes, Madam.
- (b): A Statement is Annexed as Annexure-I.
- (c): A Statement is Annexed as Annexure-II.
- (d): Every citizen has a right to migrate to any part of the country. However, Government's effort has been to prevent distress migration.
- (e) & (f): The Government has enacted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. According to the Act, employment shall be provided within a radius of five kilometres of the village where the applicant resides at the time of applying. In cases the employment is provided outside such radius, it must be provided within the Block and the labourers shall be paid 10% extra wages. As such, providing local employment, on demand by the household, mitigates distress migration.

Further, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganised workers including migrant workers. The Act has come into force w.e.f. 16th May, 2009. The Act provides for formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganised workers on matters relating to:

- (a) Life and disability cover;
- (b) Health and maternity benefits;
- (c) Old age protection; and
- (d) Any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

The Act also provides for formulation of schemes by the State Governments relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old age homes by the State Governments.

The Government has also launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance coverage for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families which includes migrant workers. The RSBY has also been extended to construction workers who are above poverty line. Majority of the construction workers are migrant workers. The objective of RSBY is to provide protection to BPL households from financial liabilities arising out of health shocks that involve hospitalization.

(g) & (h) No, Madam.