

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:174  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010  
WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS  
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the number of landless agricultural labourers/workers at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare, upliftment and assistance to such labourers/workers;
- (c) the funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, scheme-wise;
- (d) the number of such labourers/workers benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise, year-wise and scheme-wise;
- (e) the average annual per capita income of such labourers/workers during the said period, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (f) the other efforts/schemes made by the Government including amendments in the relevant labour laws to improve the conditions and livelihood of such labourers/workers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (A) TO (F) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.174 FOR ANSWER ON 22.11.2010 REGARDING WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

(a): A Statement showing the number of landless agricultural workers is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): The Government is implementing various welfare schemes/employment generation programmes through various Ministries/Departments for rural poor, including agricultural workers. These include the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. This was enacted to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household. With a view to providing social security cover to unorganized workers, including agricultural labourers/workers, the Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana". The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover upto Rs.30,000 to BPL families including agricultural workers is in operation since 1st April 2008. Apart from other unorganized workers below poverty line (BPL), the scheme also extends to such agricultural workers as are BPL. The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NSOAP) renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has been re-cast to cover all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line w.e.f. 19.11.2007. A Statement showing allocation and expenditure under these schemes are at Annexure-II.

(e) & (f): Average monthly income of a farmer household is Rs.2115 as per National Sample Survey Report: Income, Expenditure and Productive Assets of Farmer Household, 2003. The labour laws/schemes are reviewed from time to time and amendments, as and when required, are made to meet the requirements of the target group.