

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4264
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
LEGISLATION FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS
Banerjee Shri Ambica

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

- (a) whether around fifty lakh domestic workers gathered in the capital on the Domestic Workers Day in the recent past;
- (b) whether the Government is aware about their demands for recognising them as skilled labours legally and also providing protection to them;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to frame National Law and Legislation that recognises domestic work as an employment worthy of regulation and labour laws protection;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be framed; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Domestic workers and their organizations do assemble to articulate their demands from time to time. However, exact number participating in such assemblies is not known.

(b) to (e): As per National Sample Survey (NSS) 2004-05, there are about 47.50 lakh domestic workers in the country. The Government is aware of the problems of the workers including domestic workers.

The domestic work falls under the purview of State Sphere. The State Governments are empowered to enact legislations for domestic workers. However, various labour laws, like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 are directly or indirectly applicable to these workers.

The Central Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers which includes domestic workers. The Government has also set-up a Task Force to evolve a policy frame work for domestic workers in the context of regulatory mechanism and providing social security. The Task Force has submitted its first report which makes certain recommendations for domestic workers including recommendation to extend Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to these workers.