

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1830

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Balram Shri P.;Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Joshi Shri Mahesh;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

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

- (a) the State-wise number of agricultural labourers living below poverty line and employed in unorganised sector in the country;
- (b) whether it is proposed to provide insurance benefits to such labourers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the rate of agricultural sector workers have declined during the last three years; and
- (e) the details of the projects and programmes for their upliftment implemented by the Government during each of the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): As per census, 2001, the total number of landless agricultural workers is 10.67 crore. Most of the landless agricultural workers are living below the poverty line. State-wise number of landless agricultural workers is annexed.

(b) & (c): Such labourers as are below poverty line (BPL) are covered under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) providing for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000 to a family(a unit of five) on family floater basis.

(d): The level of employment in agriculture remained more or less the same.

(e): With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers,including agricultural workers, the Government enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board to recommend social security schemes viz life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection.

Aam Admi Bima Yojana providing for death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years was launched on 02.10.2007. More than 1.67 crore lives have been covered under the scheme as on 31.12.2010.

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), providing for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000 to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector, was launched on 01.10.2007 and became operational from 01.04.2008. More than 2.31 crore BPL families (a unit of five) have been covered under RSBY as on 28.02.2011.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. All citizens above the age of 65 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme.

The Government also launched the National Pension Scheme called Swavalamban Scheme for unorganized sector workers.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 was enacted providing 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.