

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2777  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011  
MINIMUM WAGES FOR UNSKILLED WORKERS  
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the minimum wages fixed for unskilled workers by empowering them through development programmes in the rural and backward areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of unskilled workers benefited in the country including Rajasthan during the last three years?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): The Government has taken several measures including the enactment of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 to empower the rural, backward and disadvantaged section of the population including unskilled workers. The Government is also implementing a number of other employment generation schemes, such as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). Social Security Schemes like Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and Aam Admi Bima Yojana also aim at improving the livelihood of the poor in the country.

Further, in order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government and most of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted the system of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), revised twice a year effective from 1st April and 1st October on the basis of increase in Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers.

(c): The total number of households provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 have respectively been 3.38 crore, 4.51 crore and 5.26 crore. The number of households provided employment in Rajasthan under MGNREGA during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 have respectively been 21.70 lakhs, 63.73 lakhs and 65.22 lakhs.