

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2859
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) the details of welfare schemes or any special laws formulated for labourers in the unorganized and agriculture sector;
- (b) whether a few social security schemes are also being formulated for the unorganized sector including the landless agricultural labourers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievement thereon from these schemes including the total number of agricultural labourers benefited during the last three years, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether the Government has received recommendation for raising farm wages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) At present, there is no special law for labourers in agriculture sector. However, with a view to providing social security to unorganised 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 maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers.

(b) & (c): The Government has taken the following recent initiatives for unorganised workers, including agricultural workers.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana for BPL families (a unit of five) in unorganized sector on 01.10.2007. The scheme providing for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis became operational from 01.04.2008. More than 2.54 crore families have been covered under the scheme as on 30.11.2011.

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' with effect from 02.10.2007. More than 1.78 crore lives have been covered under the scheme as on 31.07.2011.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme provides for old age pension of Rs. 200 per month to persons above the age of 60 years and for the persons above the age of 80 years the amount of pension has been raised to Rs. 500 per month. State-wise details of beneficiaries under RSBY, AABY and Old age pension for the last three years are at Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively.

(d) & (e): No specific recommendation relating to raising of farm wages has been received by the Government.