

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2919
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
EMPLOYMENT TO WORKERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has agreed to sign an agreement with USA to make employment available to the workers;
- (b) if so, the details of the said agreements;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any welfare scheme for all categories of private employees in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the number of workers likely to be benefited through these schemes State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): There is a proposal of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with US Department of Labour. The matter is being processed.

(b): The draft MoU focuses in the areas of cooperation in (i) Skill Development, (ii) Youth Employment, (iii) Occupational Safety & Health, and (iv) Mine Safety & Health.

(c): The private sector workers in the organized sector are mainly covered under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act and the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. Government has also adopted various innovative measures to benefit and empower the informal sector workers in the form of Labour Welfare Funds. The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted. The RSBY (Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana) a scheme for providing cashless health cover to below poverty line families in the informal sector is running successfully all over the country. RSBY has been extended to building and other construction workers, street vendors, beedi workers and MGNREGA beneficiaries. The Government has launched the Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) to provide insurance against death and disability. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for some categories of workers like beedi, cine and non-coal mine workers in the unorganised sector.

(d): Accordingly to the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total employment in both the organized and unorganized sector is 45.9 crore. Out of this, 43.3 crore were in the unorganized sector and 2.6 crore were in the organized sector. Number of ESIC beneficiaries as on 31.03.2010 is 554.84 lakh and Number of beneficiaries of EPF is 587.96 lakh. The coverage of RSBY has reached 25.45 million smart card users approximately on 30.11.2011. The State-wise details of RSBY as on 31.08.2011 are enclosed as Annexure.