

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:760

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

MIGRATION OF WORKERS

Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh;Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) the number of daily wagers in the country;
- (b) the details of the schemes being run for them and their families;
- (c) whether a number of labourers and students from villages migrate to adjoining States due to poverty, drought, absence of Government sponsored programmes etc.;
- (d) if so, the details of such migrations during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the extent to which relief to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are being provided in such inaccessible areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): No data regarding number of daily wagers is maintained at central level.

(b): There is no scheme specifically for daily wagers and their families.

(c)to(e): Every citizen has a right to migrate to any part of the country. However, Government's effort has been to prevent distress migration. The Government has enacted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. According to the Act, employment shall be provided within a radius of five kilometers of the village where the applicant resides at the time of applying. In cases the employment is provided outside such radius, it must be provided within the Block and the labourers shall be paid 10% extra wages. As such, providing local employment, on demand by the household, mitigates distress migration. In order to safeguard the interests of the migrant workers, the Government has enacted Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 which, inter-alia, provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. No year-wise and state-wise data of migration is maintained at central level.

(f): The Government has launched various schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Awas Yojana etc. for the upliftment and welfare of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.