

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

SOCIAL SECURITY COVER TO UNORGANISED WORKERS

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide basic minimum social security cover in the forms of life and disability insurance, health and maternity benefit and old age pension to all unorganized workers/occupational groups in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far in this regard to provide the above basic facilities as well as its outcome?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (c): With a view to providing social security cover to workers in the unorganised sector, the Government enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Government has already initiated steps to provide social security in a phased manner as follows :

(i). Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) was launched on 01.10.2007 to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 26 States/ Union Territories and more than 3.22 crore smart cards have been issued as on 15.08.2012.

During the course of implementation, RSBY has been extended to building and other construction workers {registered under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996}, street vendors, beedi workers, domestic workers and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year.

(ii) The Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) was launched on 02.10.2007 with a view to providing insurance cover to the head of family or one earning member of rural landless households between the age of 18 years and 59 years. Under the scheme, the head of the family or an earning member of the family is eligible to receive the benefits of Rs. 30,000/- in case of natural death, Rs.75,000/- in case of accidental death, Rs. 75000/- for total permanent disability (loss of two eyes or two limbs or loss of one eye and one limb in accident) and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability (loss of one eye or one limb in accident). More than 1.98 crore lives have been covered as on 29.02.2012 under AABY.

(iii) The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. All citizens above the age of 60 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme. For persons above the age of 80 years, the amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month. More than 1.90 crore persons have availed benefits under the scheme as on 29.02.2012.