

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:649
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACT LABOUR ACT, 1970
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 is getting the due attention in the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the contract labour get their due rights and benefits;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of non-payment of minimum wages to labourers, contract labour, price rise and of management;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of persons employed but still living below poverty line in the country, State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the conditions of above labourers/persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. In the Central Sphere, the officers of Chief Labour Commissioner (c)'s organization conduct inspections regularly under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and take action by filing prosecution cases against the defaulting employers. They also conduct regular inspections under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Whenever violation and payment of less than minimum rates of wages are observed, prosecution/claim cases are launched against the defaulting employers. To account for rise in consumer price index, Dearness Allowance (DA) payable under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is revised every six months and inspections are conducted to ensure that increase in DA is paid to the workmen. Similarly the State Governments take appropriate action for the establishments coming under their jurisdiction.

(d): Annexure -I shows the enforcement action taken under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1947 and Annexure-II shows the prosecutions launched, claim cases filed against the defaulting employers under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in Central Sphere.(e): Annexure-III shows the data about the people living below poverty line in the country. No separate data is maintained about the people employed but living below poverty line(BPL).

(f): The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not provided Social Security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level, which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers. For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs.30000/- per year to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. Similarly, to provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana". Apart from the above, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme ensures livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing a guarantee of wage employment for at least 100 days in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The Government has also constituted a Task Force to revisit the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 on the recommendations of the 42nd Session of Indian Labour Conference.