

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1164
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
HOMELESS AND LANDLESS LABOURERS WORKERS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the number of homeless and landless labourers/workers at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the government to improve their condition during the each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the target fixed and success achieved by the Government in this regard during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

Answer

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

(a): As per Census 2001, the number of agricultural workers in India is 10.67 crores. A statement showing the State-wise data of landless agricultural workers is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Labour & Employment has initiated several measures to solve the problems of the landless labourers. Various labour laws like The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE&CS) Act, 1979 are applicable to these workers. There are various schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government for improving the conditions of rural poor including landless labourers. Some of such schemes are; Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana; Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; National Social Assistance Programme; etc. The Government has recently enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families in Unorganised sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007. The unorganised sector worker and his family (unit of five) will be covered under the scheme. The total sum insured would be Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis. With a view to providing death and disability cover to rural landless households, the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY)' has been launched on 2nd October, 2007. Under the scheme, the head of the family or one earning member in the family will be insured. The Central Government will bear 50% of the premium of Rs. 200/- per year per person and remaining 50% of the premium will be borne by State Government. The benefits under the scheme include Rs. 30,000/- in case of natural death; Rs. 75,000/- in case of death due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500/-. The children of beneficiaries of AABY studying in classes 9th to 12th including ITI courses are eligible to a scholarship @ Rs. 300/- per quarter per child for a maximum period of 4 years under Shiksha Sahyog Yojana. Similarly, the National Old Age Pension Scheme (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme) has been expanded to cover all BPL citizens above the age of 65 years with effect from 19.11.2007.

Recognising the need for social security for unorganised workers, including, homeless and landless workers, 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. Whereas, other welfare schemes cater to different categories of workers, including landless labourers, without treating them as a separate category, 'the Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' is a scheme primarily for rural landless households a statement showing State-wise and year-wise coverage under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana is at Annexure-II.