

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1186

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

EXPLORATION OF UNORGANISED WORKERS

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

- (a) whether labours/workers working in the small units like shops etc. in the unorganised sector are being exploited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to take stringent action against the defaulting concerned authorities responsible in this regard;
- (d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of such workers; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Government has taken adequate measures for the protection of unorganised workers including those engaged in small scale industries through various legislations. Various labour laws like The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Condition of Service) Act, 1979 are directly or indirectly applicable to these workers. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to implement the various laws in letter and spirit.

(d) & (e): Recently the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health, maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government, for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to Below Poverty Line families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.