

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3778
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
WOMEN FARM WORKERS
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

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

- (a) the number of women farm workers in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the state of women farm workers; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the conditions of women farm workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a): As per Census, 2001, there were about 4.94 crore women agricultural labourers/farm workers in the country.

(b) & (c): With a view to providing social security to unorganised workers, including women farm workers, the Government enacted the "Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board to recommend social security schemes, namely, life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganised workers.

The following are the recent initiatives undertaken by the Government for unorganised sector, including women farm workers:

(I). The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana in 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 3.30 crore smart cards have been issued as on 30.11.2012.

(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. The scheme is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). 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/- accidental death, Rs. 75000/- for total permanent disability and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability. More than 1.77 crore lives are covered under AABY as on 31.10.2012.

The Government has been implementing Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, which 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 2.27 crore persons have availed benefits under the scheme as on 31.10.2012.