

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2290

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pakirappa Shri S.;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

(a)whether due to the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and also huge interment in infrastructure sector the labour from agriculture sector is shifting to construction and other infrastructure sectors;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)the total workforce reduced to agriculture sector and added to construction and other sectors during the last three years;

(d)whether 95 per cent of the labour in the construction sector have no social security coverage; and

(e)if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for the welfare of workers under social security in the manufacturing and construction sector?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. No such report is available to conclusively demonstrate that the Act has caused shifting of labour from agriculture sector. In fact, the Act has resulted in reducing distress migration from rural to urban areas in some parts of the country.

(d) & (e): The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 with a view to regulating the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and provide for their safety, health and welfare measures etc. Under Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, every State Government has to constitute a State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. The functions of the Board include providing welfare and social security measure such as immediate assistance to a beneficiary in case of accident, payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of 60 years, loan and advances for construction of house, paying amount in connection with premia for Group Insurance Scheme etc.

Further, with a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, including those from manufacturing and construction sector, the Government enacted the "Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level to recommend social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers. The Government has initiated steps in the context of all these social security benefits.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide smart card based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit, 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 28 States/Union Territories and more than 3.41 crore smart cards have been issued as on 28.02.2013. RSBY has been extended to building & other construction workers also, who are registered with Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards (BOCWB).

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. 75,000/- for total permanent disability and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability.

The Government has been implementing Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), 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.