

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5487

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

EPF TO UNORGANIZED SECTOR WORKERS

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

- (a) the number of workers employed in the unorganised sector in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal for extending the benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to all workers under unorganised sector;
- (c) if so, the details along with the present status thereof;
- (d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for the welfare of workers working in unorganised sector in the country?

Answer

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

(a) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in the year 2009-10, the total employment in the unorganized sector was 43.7 crore.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry for extending the benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to workers under unorganized sector.

(e) With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, the Government enacted the "Unorganised 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 unorganized sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 28 States/ Union Territories and more than 3.44 crore smart cards have been issued as on 31.03.2013.

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. 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/- for 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.