

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:157

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013

UNORGANISED SECTOR LABOURERS

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

- (a) the details of workers presently working in the unorganised sector in the country; State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is considering a social security cover for workers of both the organised and unorganised sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor,
- (d) the details of various provisions in place for the welfare of unorganised sector workers and the* extent to which such workers are availing of the said welfare facilities; and
- (e) the measures being taken try the Government to ensure the rights and protection of unorganised sector workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (8HRB MODIXUNNBL SURESH)

(a) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization in the year 2009-2010,, the total employment in both organized and unorganized sector in the country was of the order of 46.5 crore. Out of this, 43.7 crore (94%) is in the unorganized sector. Data on State-wise workers in unorganized sector is not maintained.

(b) to (e) For providing social security cover to organised workers in the country, five legislations namely, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, The Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 have been enacted. Under these Acts provisions have been made for comprehensive medical care to the employees and their families as well as cash benefits during sickness and maternity and monthly payments in case of death or disablement; terminal benefits to provident fund, superannuation pension, and family pension in case of death during service; payment of compensation to the employee or its family in cases of employment related injuries resulting in death or disability; benefits to women workers of 12 week wages during maternity as well as paid leave in certain other related contingencies; and provision of gratuity providing for 115 days wages for each year of services to employees who have worked for five years or more in establishments having a minimum of 10 workers.

For the 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 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 3.56 crore smart cards have been issued as on 31.07.2013.

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. 30000/- in case of natural death, Rs.75000/- accidental death, Rs. 75000/- for total permanent disability and Rs. 37500/- for partial permanent disability. More than 4.80 crore lives are covered under AABY upto January 2013.

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. More than 2.27 crore persons have availed benefits under the scheme as on 31.10.2012.