

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:478

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

MIGRANT LABOUR

Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to develop mechanism to register migrant workers at source and destination to develop Data Bank along with data on fatal and non-fatal accidents which take place with migrant labourers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the existing welfare schemes are accessible to migrant workers at their destination and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of schemes especially implemented for migrant workers;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to take any steps to make documents like ration cards and BPL status to be made inter-State portable so that migrants could access services at destination; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No Data Bank is maintained at Central level in respect of the migrant workers. There is provision for registration of establishments and licensing of contractors who employ inter-state migrant workmen under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. However, in order to strengthen the inter-state co-ordination mechanism for smooth implementation of activities in source and destination areas of migrant workers, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Labour Departments of some State Governments have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to regulate the employment of inter-state migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service and for matters connected therewith. The Act, inter-alia, provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protecting clothing etc. to these workers. The provisions of various labour laws like the Employees Compensation Act, 1923, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are applicable to migrant workers.

The Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers including migrant workers.

The migrant workers come from various segments of unorganized workers such as building and other construction workers, farm labours, domestic workers etc. The existing schemes for such workers are also accessible to migrant workers. In addition to this, the coverage of RSBY has been extended to them.

(e) & (f): The responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and issuance of Ration Cards rests with the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to consider using ration entitlement authority slips for migrant labour/displaced persons or homeless for limited purpose of ration entitlement. However, at present there is no proposal to make ration cards portable across the States. RSBY Smart Cards have been made portable.