

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2955
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
MIGRANT LABOURERS
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) the details of the welfare measures provided to migrant labourers including payment of equal wages;
- (b) whether the plight of migrant labourers has come to the notice of the Government and if so, the efforts made to collect relevant data in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating any step to address the welfare and social security issues relating to migrant labourers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the problems and plight of migrant labourers. In order to regulate the employment of Inter-State Migrant Workmen and to provide for their conditions of service, the Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. The Act inter-alia, provides for payments of journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing, etc. to these workers. As per Section 13 of the Act, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service of an inter-state migrant workman shall be the same as those applicable to other workman and an inter-State migrant workman shall in no case be paid less than the wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The provisions of various labour laws like

- (i) Employees Compensation Act, 1923;
- (ii) Payment of Wages Act, 1936;
- (iii) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;
- (iv) Employees State Insurance Act, 1943;
- (v) Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and
- (vi) Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are also applicable to migrant workers. No data is maintained at Central level in respect of migrant labourers.

(c) & (d): The Government has already enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers including migrant workers. The Act provides for formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganised workers on matters relating to:

- (i) Life and disability cover;
- (ii) Health and maternity benefits;
- (iii) Old age protection; and
- (iv) Any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

The Act also provides for formulation of schemes by the State Governments relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old age homes by the State Governments. The Government has launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance coverage for certain categories of unorganised workers which include migrant workers also.