

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2790
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009
CONDITION OF CASHEW WORKERS
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

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

- (a) whether the conditions of cashew workers is pitiable in the county;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such workers living below poverty line in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce suitable welfare measures like pension, gratuity and ESI facilities for the said workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) to (d): Government is aware of the conditions of unorganised workers, including, cashew workers. Recognizing the need for providing of social security to such worker, the Government has enacted "the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board which shall recommend formulation of 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 Central Government. As mandated under the Act, the Government has also constituted the National Social Security Board under the Chairmanship of Minister of Labour & Employment. The Board held its first meeting on 23.9.2009. Consequent to a decision taken in the meeting, a tripartite Sub-Committee, consisting of representatives of workers, employers and civil society has been constituted to:
- (a) consider and recommend ways and means to extend existing social security schemes like RSBY, to other segments of unorganized workers
 - (b) examine and suggest other social security schemes for unorganized workers, including the mechanism for implementation and the funding thereof
 - (c) any other suggestion regarding providing social security to unorganized workers. The Sub-Committee has already met twice.

Below Poverty Line (BPL) data of cashew workers is not maintained.