

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3906
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009
DR. ARJUN SENGUPTA COMMISSION
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Dr. Arjun Sengupta Commission constituted for the welfare of unorganised sector workers has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details and main features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps as per the recommendations of the said commission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta submitted its report on social security for unorganised workers in May, 2006. The Commission recommended a Central legislation for providing social security to these workers. The Government examined the proposal regarding enactment of Central legislation for unorganized workers in consultation with Central Trade Unions, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Thereafter, the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill' 2007 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.9.2007 which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. On careful examination of the recommendations of the Standing Committee and suggestions of stakeholders, the Government moved official amendments in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament with amendments and the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 was enacted and notified in Gazette of India on 31.12.2008. The Act has come into force with effect from 16th May, 2009.

In the meantime the Government took following initiatives:

- (1) With a view to providing death and disability cover to rural landless households, the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana' (AABY) was launched on 2nd October, 2007.
- (2) The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families (a unit of five) providing for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis is in operation from 1st April, 2008.
- (3) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.
- (4) As provided in the Act, National Social Security Board has been constituted which shall recommend social security schemes viz life and disability cover, health maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefits as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers. The first meeting of the National Board was held on 23.09.2009. In its first meeting, the Board decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to consider the extension of RSBY to other occupational Groups in the unorganised sector (Non-BPL) and formulation of other social security schemes for unorganised workers. The Sub-Committee has already met twice.