

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:978

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015

SOCIAL SECURITY TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

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

- (a)the number of laws in existence which provide social security benefits to the building and construction workers in the country;
- (b)whether there are any impediments in its implementation and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c)the number of State Governments which have constituted welfare Boards under the Act along with the total amount of collection so far and passed on to the State Welfare Boards; and
- (d)the other steps taken by the Government to ensure social security coverage including better living conditions, good educational and medical facilities to construction sector casual workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 with a view to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and provide for their safety, health and welfare measures etc. Under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, every State Government has to constitute a State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. The functions of the Board include providing immediate assistance to a beneficiary in case of accident; making payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of sixty years; sanctioning loans and advances to the beneficiary for construction of a house; paying premia for Group Insurance Scheme of the beneficiaries; giving financial assistance for the education of children; meeting medical expenses for treatment of major ailments; making payment of maternity benefit to the female beneficiaries and making provisions and improvement of such other welfare measures and facilities as may be prescribed.

(b): The impediments in implementation of the Act as experienced so far includes low level of utilization of funds by the State level bodies which control the fund and administer the schemes, namely, State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards.

(c): All State Governments except the newly created State of Telangana have constituted their Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards. A statement showing the state-wise detail of cess collected and amount utilized under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 is annexed.

(d): The Central Government has been issuing directions to the State governments and their Boards for providing proper social security coverage to the buildings and other construction workers. Such directions under Section 60 of the Act have been issued on 27.09.2010, 12.07.2013, 27.02.2014 and 16.10.2014, requiring the States inter-alia, to mandatorily provide welfare schemes for the workers covering death benefits, accident benefits, funeral assistance, education assistance, pension for persons not able to work due to old age/ disability, medical insurance, assistance for purchase of tools, skill upgradation, maternity benefits and grant for repairs and construction of houses.

Moreover, Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 which lists out ten social security schemes such as:

1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme -by Ministry of Rural Development
2. National Family Benefit Scheme- by Ministry of Rural Development
3. Janani Suraksha Yojana -by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
4. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme -by Ministry of Textiles
5. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme- by Ministry of Textiles
6. Pension to Master Craft persons -by Ministry of Textiles

7. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension- by Ministry of Agriculture

8. Janshree Bima Yojana/9. Aam Admi Bima Yojana - by Ministry of Finance

10. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana -by Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Besides, Ministry of Finance also implements the Swavalamban Pension Scheme for unorganized workers through the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

All these schemes together take care of the social security and welfare needs of the workers in the unorganised sector including the building and other construction workers.