

**Plight of labourers working in unorganised sector**

†2427. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the plight of labourers working in unorganised sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to improve their condition;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any social security scheme and other welfare schemes for their upliftment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to providing social security to unorganized workers. Recognizing the need of providing social security to these workers, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board to recommend social security schemes viz. life and disability cover, health maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers.

The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana for BPL families ( a unit of five) in organized sector on 01.10.2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. Under the scheme, smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis is provided.,

More than 2.4 crore families have been covered under the scheme as on 31.07.2011.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana" on 02.10.2007. More than 1.78 crore lives have been covered under the scheme as on 31.07.2011

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme provides for old age pension of Rs. 200 per month to persons above the age of 60 years and for the persons above the age of 80 years the amount of pension has been raised to Rs. 500 per month.

The Government is implementing various other social security schemes/ programmes for workers in the unorganised sector, such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Employment

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Generation Programme, Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Handloom Weavers' comprehensive Welfare Schemes, Handicraft Artisans' comprehensive Welfare Schemes, Pension to Mastercrafts persons, National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension, Janani Suraksha Yojana, National Family Benefits Scheme, Janshree Bima Yojana, New Pension Schemes (Swavalamban scheme) through various Ministries/Departments.

The Government has constituted Welfare Fund to provide welfare measures to the beedi workers and their family members. These include health care, housing assistance, education to children and group insurance etc.

#### **Enhancing interest rate on EPF**

2428. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees and workers covered by Employees Provident Fund (EPF) are getting pensions now-a-days from EPF fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that pension holders do not get any relief like other pensions due to hike in prices of essential commodities as inflation remains high in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government is considering to increase the pension amount as it has enhanced the interest rate on EPF deposit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Employees and workers covered by the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) are getting pension from the Employees' Pension Fund created under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

(b) On completion of 10 years of eligible service and attaining the age of at least 50 years, a member is entitled to get pension from the Employees' Pension Fund as per the provisions of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

(c) Grant of relief under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is not linked with price rise, but is based on Annual Actuarial Valuation of the Employees' Pension Fund.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.