

(a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. More than 2.54 crore smart cards have been issued as on 30.11.2011. RSBY has been extended to building and other construction workers, street vendors, beedi workers, MGNREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year and domestic Workers.

The Government has launched the Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) to provide insurance against death and disability.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded by revising the criteria of eligibility. Earlier, all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme. To expand the old age protection cover, the Government has now reduced the age for eligibility of pension from 65 years to 60 years and for the persons above the age of 80 years the amount has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month.

The Government is implementing various other employment generation/social security schemes for workers in the unorganised sector, such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rajgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Mahatma 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, Janshree Bima Yojana New Pension Schemes (Swavalamban scheme) through various Ministries/Departments.

The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for some categories of workers like beedi, cine and non-coal mine workers in the unorganised sector. The Welfare Funds are utilized to provide for financing of measures to promote the welfare for workers including women workers engaged in these occupations. The welfare measures include health & medical care, insurance, housing, education, recreation, water supply, maternity benefits etc.

It is the endeavour of the Government to implement all schemes/programmes formulated for welfare of labourers in true spirit and letter.

Fixing minimum pension by EPFO

3205. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is mulling over fixing the minimum pension for its subscribers at Rs. 1,000 a month;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to raise additional fund requirement for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Pension Implementations of the Committee (PIC) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to increase the minimum pension amount to Rs. 1,000/- per month for its subscribers is to be placed before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund [CBT(EPF)] in its ensuing meeting for its consideration.

(c) The recommendation of the PIC to increase minimum pension to Rs. 1,000/- per month as per actuarial valuation would require 0.63 per cent increase in the contribution of 8.33 per cent. Any follow-up action would arise only after consideration by CBT (EPF).

Setting up of Welfare Boards

3206. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: 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;

(b) whether there are any impediments in its implementation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of State Governments which have constituted Welfare Boards under the Act;

(e) if not, whether Government has issued any directions to the State Governments and Union Territories for the setting up of Welfare Boards; and

(f) the total amount collected so far and passed on to the State Welfare Boards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of