

Migrant workers Data Bank

2133. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken initiative to develop mechanism to register migrant workers at source and destination to develop Data Bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure that existing welfare schemes are accessible to migrant workers at their destination;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of Government schemes especially designed for migrant workers;

(f) whether Government is planning to take any steps to make documents like ration cards and BPL status to be made inter-State portable so that migrants could access services at destination; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) No Data Bank is maintained at central level in respect of the migrant workers. However, in order to strengthen the inter-state co-ordination mechanism for smooth implementation of activities in source and destination areas of migrant workers, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and Labour Departments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As per MoU inter-State Co-ordination Cell is to be set up which will, *inter-alia*, maintain database of migrant workers.

(c) to (e) The Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to regulate the employment inter-state migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service and for matters connected therewith. The Act, *inter-alia*, provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. to these workers. The provisions of various labours laws like the Employees Compensation Act, 1923, the

Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are applicable to migrant workers.

The Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers including migrant workers.

The migrant workers come from various segments of unorganized workers such as building and other construction workers, farm labours, domestic workers etc. The existing schemes for such workers are also accessible to migrant workers.

(f) and (g) The responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and issuance of Ration Card to them rests with the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. The Central Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to consider using ration entitlement authority slips for migrant labour/displaced persons or homeless for limited purpose of ration entitlement. However, at present there is no proposal to make ration cards portable across the States.

Amendment in EPF pension scheme

2134. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to bring amendment in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Pension Scheme to enhance the quantum of monthly pension as the benefit in other scheme is highest than the present pension scheme and also increase the coverage limit to Rs. 15,000 per month and reduce the number of workers to 5 instead of 20 for coverage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), Sub-Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government. The issue of enhancing wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 has been discussed in meetings of