

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) The Government has launched on 01.10.2007 the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide smart card based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit, cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families, including tribals working in the unorganised sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme is presently being implemented in 28 States/Union Territories and more than 3.75 crore families are availing the benefits of the scheme. They are also provided social security benefits under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) comprising Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), and Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY).

(b) With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, including forest workers, the Government has already enacted the "Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008". The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the central level to recommend social security schemes *viz.* life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers. The Government has taken steps in the context of all these social security benefits through the schemes like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Aam Adami Bima Yojana (AABY) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

Enhancement of salary limit of Employees Provident Fund

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

(a) whether Government is considering to enhance the salary limit of employees of provident fund to Rs. 15000/- and reduce the number of workers from 20 to 5 in view of the mechanization and downsizing of the workers; and

(b) whether Government is also considering to raise the provident fund related pension to Rs. 2000/- per month as minimum pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Proposals for enhancing the wage ceiling from Rs. 6500/- to Rs. 15000/- and reducing the threshold limit from 20 to 10 under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are under consideration of the Government.

(b) A proposal for providing a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- to member pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is also under consideration of the Government.

Care of mentally retarded persons

749. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government in consultation with State Governments is going to conduct detailed study about conditions of mentally retarded persons as it has been observed that due to lack of proper regulations and laws for them, sometimes their families are not taking proper care of such persons;

(b) whether Government is considering making a suitable law for guardians of mentally retarded persons to furnish all details such as health condition, family details so it will be easy for Government to monitor the conditions of mentally retarded persons; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) There is no such proposal in the Ministry to conduct such a study at this stage. The enactments namely, Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, National Trust for the Welfare of the Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 and the Mental Health Act, 1987 take care of various aspects to safeguard the interest of persons with disabilities including the persons with mental retardation.

(b) and (c) Section 10 of the National Trust for the Welfare of the Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 provides for appointment of Guardians and Trustees for persons with disability (including persons with intellectual disabilities) requiring protection. The Local Level Committee (LLC) constituted under this Act is authorized to seek details of health condition and family of the Persons with Disabilities from the Legal Guardian.

Cases of violation in respect of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

750. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: