

bringing in convergence of various social security schemes meant for the workers in unorganised sector, there is a legal mandate prescribed under Section 10 of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008, which *inter alia* provides for issuance of a smart card with unique identification number which is portable.

The task of issuance of Smart Card is vested in the District Administration. However, Ministry of Labour and Employment has decided to reimburse ₹ 20/- per card to the State Governments and UT Administrations for facilitating registration of unorganised workers in a big way. The portability feature enables the migrant workers to access health facility and other entitlements across the country.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has persistently endeavoured to encourage the State Governments to issue identity cards to this workforce on priority basis. In that direction, Minister of State has requested the Chief Ministers LT: Governors to launch a campaign code named "Shram Shakti Pehchaan" in their respective States/UTs for registration of all unorganised workers in two phases during the current financial year.

First phase of the campaign starts from May Day of 2015 and will continue up to 30 June, 2015 and the second phase will start from 15th August and end on 30th September 2015. Besides an Executive Order, which has created an enabling environment in the States and UT Administrations, detailed technical guidelines and standard operating procedures have been communicated to all the concerned authorities. Government is working on the software and IT platform etc. for developing the national data base as mandated under the Act.

Government has got the budgetary provisions as well as special fund to support the above activities.

**Amendment of the Employees' Provident Funds and
Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**

1146. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government will soon amend the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, to give employees the choice of investing in the New Pension Scheme or in the existing retirement fund body;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government is going ahead with changes amid stiff opposition from trade unions which feel New Pension Scheme is not a substitute for EPF and the proposed amendments will deal a severe blow to the organisation; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) A proposal to provide option to employees between Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and National Pension System (NPS) has been included in the proposed comprehensive amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(c) and (d) Various Trade Unions raised concerns about the above proposal during the Tripartite Consultation on the proposed comprehensive amendment to the Act. The concerns raised during the meeting were clarified.

New welfare measures for women domestic servants

1147. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced any new welfare measures to benefit domestic labour in the country particularly the women domestic servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the list of schemes and projects implemented by Government to protect the interests of the domestic servants particularly women servants;

(d) the State-wise total amount allocated, disbursed and spent in the last five years for the benefit of women domestic servants; and

(e) the State-wise total number of domestic servants from the unorganised sector got benefited in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Central Government has not announced any welfare scheme especially for women domestic servants to benefit them.

However, the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide social security to the unorganised sector workers including domestic workers. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes on matters relating to *viz.* Life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government. The State Governments may formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganised sector workers relating to provident fund, employment, injury benefit, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation of workers, funeral assistance and old age homes.