

**Statement***Number of beneficiaries covered under various schemes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries (2014-15)
1.	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	2,08,33,673
2.	National Family Benefit Scheme	1,75,592
3.	Janani Suraksha Yojana	1,04,38,901
4.	Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	
	(a) Health Insurance Scheme	16,90,062
	(b) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana	5,73,763
5.	Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	
	(a) Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana	8,05,391
6.	Pension to Master Craft Persons	—
7.	National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension	52,34,799
8.	Aam Admi Bima Yojana	1,27,681
9.	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana	3,59,28,048
TOTAL		7,58,07,910

**Amendment to PF Act**

419. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to expand the Provident Fund (PF) coverage benefit to employees of small business houses also, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the changes being introduced in the PF Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) A proposal for comprehensive amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF and MP) Act, 1952 is under consideration of the Government which, *inter-alia*, includes reducing threshold limit for coverage from 20 to 10 employees under the Act.

(b) The amendment proposal, *inter-alia*, includes reducing threshold limit from 20 to 10 employees for coverage under the Act, removal of Schedule for coverage under the Act, simplification of definition of wages, etc., multi-member EPF Appellate Tribunal, a new category of “Small Establishments” (employing upto 40 persons), option for employees to opt for National Pension System (NPS), etc.

### **Employment opportunities**

†420. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities generated in Assam during last five years;

(b) whether the employment generation in the State of Assam per annum is less than that of other States in the country;

(c) if so, whether any effort is being made/scheme is being implemented by Government to maintain a balance in the employment generation; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) As per results of two most recent labour force surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, estimated worker population ratio on usual status basis during 2009-10 and 2011-12 for Assam and All India is given below:

Worker Population Ratio	2009-10	2011-12
Assam (in%)	36.3	34.1
All India (in %)	39.2	38.6
Total workforce (in crore)	46.55	47.41

The State-wise details of worker population ratio for the year 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.