

social security benefits to the workers in the unorganised sector, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The 2008 Act provides for registration of unorganised workers and issuance of portable smart card by District Administration to them. Further, the 2008 Act stipulates formulation of suitable welfare schemes for unorganised workers on matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover, (ii) health and maternity benefits, (iii) old age protection and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government through the National Social Security Board. Various Schemes, formulated by the Government to provide social security cover to the unorganized workers, listed in the Schedule I of the above Act are as under:

- (i) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. (Ministry of Rural Development)
- (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme. (Ministry of Rural Development)
- (iii) Janani Suraksha Yojana. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
- (iv) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. (Ministry of Textiles)
- (v) Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme. (Ministry of Textiles)
- (vi) Pension to Master Craft Persons. (Ministry of Textiles)
- (vii) National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension. (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries)
- (viii) Aam Admi Bima Yojana. (Department of Financial Services)
- (ix) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The unorganised workers are getting benefits according to their eligibility for each social security scheme.

Average contributing member of EPFO during the Financial Year 2015-16 is 376.23 lakh. There is no proposal to extend facility of EPF to workers of unorganised sector.

Rehabilitation of bonded labour scheme

1126. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently revised the rehabilitation of bonded labour scheme;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the new forms of bondage in the country such as organised begging rings, forced prostitution and child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The Government has revamped the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers with effect from 17th May, 2016. The revamped Scheme is known as 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016'.

The salient features of the Scheme are as under:

1. The revised scheme is a Central Sector Scheme. The State Government is not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance.
2. Financial Assistance has been increased from ₹ 20,000/- to one lakh per adult male beneficiary, ₹ 2 lakh for child labour and women and ₹ 3 lakh to trans-genders, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation.
3. The above cash benefit is additional to other land and housing elements etc.
4. The amount of assistance for survey of bonded labourers is ₹ 4.50 lakh per district.
5. The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused.
6. Scheme provides for creation of District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund with a permanent corpus of at least ₹ 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.
7. The fund is released by the Ministry under the Scheme directly to the District National Child Labour Project Society and the District Project Society in turn releases the fund to the implementing agencies including District Administration for the purpose of the Bonded Labourer Rehabilitation Scheme forthwith.
8. Transfer of benefits to beneficiary account is on DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode from District National Child Labour Project Society for cutting delay.
9. Special care is made available by the State for addressing the needs of the disabled persons, female freed bonded labourers and bonded child labour by providing safe and secure environment for the capacity building of child bonded labourers, facilities for ensuring their proper education, short stay home till education upto class 12th, Skill development, marriage assistance etc.