

nation-wide online platform for jobseekers and employers for job matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content.

Central Government has targeted the issue by taking various prominent steps to increase female labour participation rate which includes the enactment of the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 which provides for enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks and provisions for mandatory creche facility in the establishments having 50 or more employees; issue of an advisory to the States under the Factories Act, 1948 for permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures. Further, in order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in various labour laws for creating congenial work environment for women workers.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. Further, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the wages fixed by the appropriate Government are equally applicable to both male and female workers and the Act does not discriminate on the basis of gender.

Schemes for benefit of migrant labourers

267. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any schemes for the benefit of labourers who have migrated to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning to introduce any policy measure to remove the requirement of domicile status for certain jobs to avoid discrimination of migrant labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In order to safeguard the interest of the Migrant workers the Central Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979 which,

inter alia, provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. The Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for the welfare of unorganized workers (including migrant workers) on matters relating to: life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits; old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined. Under the Right to Education Act, all children below the age of fourteen years have a right to compulsory free education. The Central Government has launched the National Health Protection Scheme (Ayushman Bharat) which will cover 10 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage up to 5 Lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. These schemes will also cater to the eligible migrant workers.

The Central Government in 2017 converged the social security scheme of Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) to provide life and disability coverage to the unorganised workers, depending upon their eligibility. The converged PMJJBY/PMSBY scheme is for the beneficiaries in the age group 18-50 years and provides for coverage of ₹ 2 lakh, in case of natural death and ₹ 4 lakh, in case of accidental death. The converged schemes are being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India. A premium of ₹ 342 (330+12) per annum would be required for the converged schemes. The premium would be shared between the State Government and the Central Government in the ratio of 50:50. This Ministry has urged all the State/UTs Governments to give their financial concurrence to cover 50 percent of the premium for all eligible unorganised workers. Around 2.83 crore beneficiaries have been covered under this scheme, as per data furnished by LIC.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration to introduce any policy measure to remove the requirement of domicile status for certain jobs to avoid discrimination of migrant labourers. As per the Unorganized Social Security Act, 2008, the State/District administrations are mandated to issue identity card to unorganised workers including migrant workers.

Loss of jobs in formal sector

268. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 10 million people have lost jobs in the formal sector in the country between September, 2017 and August, 2018;