

(ESIC) to provide specialised medical care to Insured Persons/ESI beneficiaries. This hospital is planned to start with 150 beds, out of which 100 beds are for secondary care services while 50 beds are for Super Specialty Services. The construction work including the Architectural and Engineering Consultancy has been assigned to Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

#### **Welfare of domestic workers**

1096. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 603 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th June, 2019 and state:

(a) whether there has been no improvement on the condition and no visible changes can be observed on domestic workers, daily working;

(b) whether coolies are not provided any upgraded tools to avoid carrying heavy baggage on their head, if not, the reasons therefor, the status of action on similar issues;

(c) the status of manual rickshaws replaced by e-rickshaws in small towns; and

(d) whether Government has planned any awareness campaign on polite behaviour towards domestic workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Central Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for providing social security to all unorganised workers including domestic workers. The Act provides formulation of social security schemes *viz.* life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits and old age protection by the Central Government. The State Government are mandated under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganised sector workers including domestic workers relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, education schemes for children, skill up gradation of workers, financial assistance and old age homes.

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 per cent of the premium for all eligible unorganised workers. Around 2.83 crore beneficiaries have been covered under this scheme. The Central Government has also launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) which will cover 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage up to ₹ 5 Lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. This scheme will also cater to eligible domestic workers.

The Government has also introduced a pension scheme *i.e.* Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana with effect from 15.02.19 for unorganised workers who are mostly engaged as rickshaw pullers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, home-based workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers or in similar other occupations. Each eligible unorganised worker including domestic worker registered under PM-SYM Scheme and who makes regular monthly age-specific contribution ranging from ₹55/- to ₹200/- will receive an assured minimum pension of ₹3000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years. The Central Government contributes equal amount as contributed by subscriber towards the pension fund. On the death of the beneficiary during the receipt of pension, the spouse will get 50 per cent of the pension.

The Government has also introduced National Pension Scheme for traders and self-employed persons (NPS traders) on 12th September, 2019. The scheme is meant for old age protection and social security of retail traders/ shopkeepers and self-employed persons (Laghu Vyaparis) whose annual turnover is not exceeding ₹1.5 crore. These retail traders/ shopkeepers and self-employed persons are mostly working as shop owners, retail traders, rice mill owners, oil mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estate, owners of small hotels, restaurants and

other Laghu Vyaparis. The Laghu Vyapari registered under this scheme who makes regular, monthly age specific contribution ranging from ₹55/- to ₹200/- are also eligible to get monthly pension of ₹3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years. All features of NPS for traders are similar as PM-SYM Scheme. As a result of the above initiative /schemes by the Central Government, there has been visible improvement and changes in the conditions of domestic workers.

(b) No, Sir. Railways have always been sincere towards the welfare of Sahayaks (licensed porters). Recently, several policy initiatives have been taken by this Ministry for welfare of Sahayaks. These include-increases in passes, medical assistance, better rest room, more uniforms etc. Besides, provision exists for free use of Railway's light trollies/hand barrows, wherever available, by Sahayaks for carriage of passenger's luggage. Moreover, carrying luggage has been made easier at places due to provision of ramps and escalators. However, no proposal with regard to provision of upgraded tools for use of Sahayaks to carry heavy baggage of the passengers is under consideration in Ministry of Railways, at present.

(c) Ministry of New Renewable Energy has no programme for replacing manual rickshaws by e-rickshaws.

(d) There is no such plan.

#### **Provision of PMUY connections without identity cards**

†1097. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide PMUY gas connections even without identity card;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.