

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2655
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2021**

PROTECTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS

2655. SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to reinstate the repealed Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 in the improved forms given the gravity of migrant workers' unimaginable sufferings during these lockdown; and**
- (b) if not, what are other legislations to protect these workers in view of the inadequacy of Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 which repealed the Inter- State Migrant Workers Act, 1979?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) & (b): Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to safeguard the interests of the inter-state migrant workers. This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979 will get repealed as soon as OSH Code, 2020 comes into force.

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Recently enacted four Labour Codes viz. Code on Wages, 2019, Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, Code on Social Security 2020 and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 provide for decent working conditions, minimum wages and social security benefits to all category of workers including migrant workers. Special provisions such as widening the definition of Inter-state migrant workers, toll free helpline, journey allowance, etc. for migrant workers have been incorporated in the OSH Code, 2020.

The Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, now subsumed in the Code on Social Security, 2020, provides for social security to all unorganized workers including migrant workers. Government has launched in 2015 Social Security Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana (PMSBY) for life and disability cover and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Man Dhan Pension Yojana (PM-SYM) in March, 2019 for pension to the unorganised workers including migrant workers. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) launched in 2018 provides Rs.5 lakh health coverage for secondary and tertiary health benefits to all unorganized workers including migrant workers who are covered as eligible beneficiaries as per Socio Economic Caste census Data, 2011.

Further, Ministry has developed a National Data Base for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal, seeded with Aadhaar, for registration of unorganised workers including migrant workers.

Government has also launched an All India Survey on Migrant Workers with the objective to collect data on migrant workers in the country including impact of COVID – 19 on such workers.
