

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1204
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024**

UNORGANIZED SECTOR WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY

1204. # DR. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any new measures during the last three years to protect the interests of workers in the unorganized sector in the country, if so, the details of measures taken and measures implemented in this regard; and**
- (b) the steps taken to protect the rights of labourers in unorganized sector particularly migrant labourers of Bihar who are engaged in farming in other States and the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) & (b): The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act (UWSS), 2008 provides for, inter-alia, formulating welfare schemes for unorganised worker on the matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc. by the Central Government. The details of the social security schemes available for unorganised sector workers include following:

i) Life and Disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

ii) The health benefits are insured through Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) under deprivation and occupation criteria. It provides health insurance coverage upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs per family for secondary and tertiary care related hospitalization. The Government of India recently approved the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), offering comprehensive health insurance to senior citizens aged 70 and above.

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iii) In order to provide old age protection to unorganised sector workers, the Government of India had launched a pension scheme in 2019 namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) to provide a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years to unorganized workers.

iv) Apart from above, other schemes such as Public Distribution System through One Nation One Ration Card scheme under National Food Security Act, Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kausal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, PMSVANidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana etc. are also available for the unorganized sector workers depending upon their eligibility criteria.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has launched eShram portal, a National Database of the Unorganised Workers on 26th August, 2021. It has been made available to the States/UTs for registration of unorganised workers including migrant workers on eShram portal. It also allows an unorganised worker to register on the portal on a self-declaration basis. The main objective of the eShram portal is to create a national database of unorganised workers seeded with Aadhaar. It is also to facilitate delivery of Social Security and welfare Schemes to such workers. As on 01.12.2024, more than 30.43 Crore unorganized workers have been registered on this portal.

During the registration on eShram, if permanent address and current address of unorganised workers are different, additional fields will appear to gather family details i.e., if they are accompanied by their family as well as the number and age of their children.

In order to safeguard the interest of the Migrant workers, the Parliament has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979 which, inter alia, provides for registration of certain establishments employing Inter State Migrant Workers, licensing of contractors, etc. Workers employed with such establishments are to be provided payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc.

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In the Occupational Safety Health & Working Condition Code, 2020, provisions for inter-state migrant workers include suitable condition of work, in case of fatal accident or serious bodily injury, employer/ contractor has to report to the specified authorities of both the States and also to the next of kin of the worker, journey allowance once in a year, a toll free helpline number.

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