

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 228
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018**

ESI BENEFITS TO UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS

***228. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any data about the labourers working at present in the unorganised sector in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the measures taken during the last three years to see that the labourers working in the unorganised sector get the benefit of various welfare schemes of Government;**
- (d) whether Government has any plan to give the unorganised labourers the benefit of ESI dispensaries and hospitals; and**
- (e) if so, whether Government propose to start new ESI dispensaries and hospitals in various parts of the country for meeting this requirement?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 228 FOR 08.08.2018 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA REGARDING ESI BENEFITS TO UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS.

(a) & (b): As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data for 2009-10, the total number of workers in the unorganized sector was estimated about 43.67 crores.

(c): In order to provide social security benefits to the workers in the unorganised sector, the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide welfare schemes in matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection to the unorganised workers. Various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are implementing such social security schemes like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development); National Family Benefit Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development); health and maternity schemes (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

The Central Government has also 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 annual premium is shared on 50:50 basis by the Central Government and the State Governments.

Government has recently approved the launch of Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) during the year 2018-19 which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approx.. 50 crore beneficiaries) based on deprivation and occupational criteria. Besides, many welfare schemes are being implemented for certain categories of unorganised workers i.e. Beedi Workers, Cine Workers and Non-coal Mine Workers. These include financial assistance for education, housing subsidy and health schemes through hospitals and dispensaries. These are monitored and implemented by Labour Welfare Commissioners across the country.

Workers in the unorganised sector are also entitled to other welfare schemes of the Government. Government also organised camps to facilitate delivery of other welfare benefits.

(d) & (e): Section 73-B of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, empowers the Central Government to frame Scheme for other beneficiaries, and the members of their families for providing medical facility in any hospital established by the Corporation (ESIC) in any area, which is under utilised, on payment of user charges.
