

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1368
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

**SOCIAL SECURITY COVER TO WORKERS IN THE UNORGANIZED
SECTOR**

1368 SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that millions of workers in the unorganized sector, like, app-based cab drivers and home delivery riders, are not covered under the social security schemes;**
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to amend laws to give social security cover, like, ESIC facilities, pension scheme, etc., to them as given to their counterparts in the organized sectors; and**
- (c) the time by when such facilities are likely to be provided to these workers?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): For the first time, the definition of 'gig worker' or 'platform worker' has been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020. The Code provides for framing of suitable social security schemes for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. As per Section 2(60) "platform work" means a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment. Further, as per section 2(61) "platform worker" means a person engaged in or undertaking platform work.

Contd..2/-

The Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948 is applicable to the factories and establishments having ten or more employees, drawing wages up to Rs. 21000/- (Rs. 25,000/- for persons with disabilities). As such, the Act does not apply to the unorganised sector.

In the Code on Social Security 2020, provision of benefits to the unorganised sector is contained in Section 45 and Section 109 of the Code whereby the Central Government and the State Governments can frame scheme for unorganised workers. The Code has not come into force so far.
