

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 737
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026**

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR WOMEN WORKERS

737. SMT. REKHA SHARMA:

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

- (a) the steps taken to extend maternity benefits, health insurance and income protection to women engaged in informal, home-based and gig works;**
- (b) whether digital platforms are being used to simplify registration and benefit delivery for women workers; and**
- (c) how convergence with women-centric welfare schemes is being ensured?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) across the country w.e.f. 01.01.2017. The PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefit Scheme under which cash incentives of ₹5,000/- is provided directly to the Bank/Post Office account of the beneficiary in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for first child. The eligible beneficiaries receive the remaining cash incentive, as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana after institutional delivery, so that on an average a woman gets ₹6,000/-. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child subject to the second child being a girl.

The Government has taken various steps to extend health insurance and income protection to women engaged in informal, home-based and gig works by implementing various schemes. These include (i) Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya

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Yojana (ABPMJAY) for health and maternity benefits, (ii) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for life and disability, (iii) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for accidental insurance, (iv) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) for old age pension, (v) Labour Welfare Scheme and health care facilities for Beedi/ Cine & Non-coal Mine workers, (vi) PM Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), (vii) PM Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), (viii) Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) for upliftment of urban poor, (ix) Prime Minister Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) for providing loans to Street Vendors including women (x) Viksit Bharat- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) for guaranteed employment of 125 days in a year.

For the first time, the definition of ‘gig workers’ and ‘platform workers’ and provision related to the same have been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has come into force on 21.11.2025.

The Code provides for framing of suitable social security measures for gig workers and platform workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The Code provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance these welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment had launched eShram portal on 26.08.2021 for creation of a Comprehensive Centralised National Database of Unorganised workers including platform workers, migrant workers, etc. The eShram portal is meant to register on a self-declaration basis and support the unorganized workers by providing them a Universal Account Number (UAN).

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also launched the eShram - ‘One-Stop-Solution’ that entails integration of different social security/ welfare schemes at single portal i.e., eShram. This is envisaged to enable unorganized workers registered on eShram to access social security schemes and see benefits availed by them so far, through eShram.

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To maximize registration of platform workers on eShram portal, three nationwide special registration drives were held during the months of April, May and August- September, 2025 in collaboration with States and Union Territories.

Multiple rounds of deliberations have been conducted with Aggregators, knowledge Partners and Platform Workers Union/ Associations and State Government/ UTs for formulating the social security framework for gig and platform workers.
