GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

ATAL BEEMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJANA

45. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:

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

- (a)whether the scheme Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) has been introduced on pilot basis for a period of 2 years for providing relief to the Insured Persons who have become unemployed;
- (b)if so, the details thereof and total number of persons covered under the scheme in the country including district Gopalganj of Bihar;
- (c)whether it is a fact that the Government has extended ABVKY for the next financial year, if so, the details thereof and the aims and objective behind the extension; and
- (d)the steps taken/being taken to strengthen the working condition of persons working in unorganised sector in the country including gig workers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) is a welfare scheme of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), under which unemployed insured persons are provided cash relief for a period of maximum 90 days. The rate of relief under the scheme originally was 25% of the average daily earnings of the claimant which has been increased to 50%. The scheme came into force on 01.07.2018. It was initially implemented on a Pan India pilot basis for a period of two years.

Till 09.07.2021, a total of Rs. 73.23 crores have been disbursed among 55,125 beneficiaries, out of which an amount of Rs. 63.65 lakh has been paid to 560 beneficiaries in Bihar. At present there is no beneficiary under the scheme from district of Gopalganj of Bihar.

- (c): Yes, Sir. ABVKY was extended for another year i.e. from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021 and in order to provide relief to those insured persons who became unemployed during the Covid-19 Pandemic, conditions for the scheme w.e.f. 24.03.2020 were revised as under:
 - i. The rate of relief under the scheme was enhanced from 25% of average per day earnings to 50% of average per day earnings and the contributory condition was relaxed.
 - ii. The waiting period to file claim was reduced from 90 days to 30 days.
- iii. Mandatory filing through employer and submission of affidavit by the claimant was dispensed with.

The Scheme has further been extended for another year i.e. up to 30.06.2022 with existing relaxed terms and conditions, and enhanced relief.

(d): As part of labour reforms, the government has recently notified "The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020," to ensure better working conditions for the workers including unorganised workers. The Code inter-alia has provisions for cleanliness and hygiene, ventilation, adequate lighting, dust free environment, flexible working for women workers, crèche facilities for their children, toll free helpline for the inter-State migrant workers, etc.

It is for the first time that the Code on Social Security, 2020 provide for definition of gig worker and platform worker in the country. The Code envisages framing of schemes for unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers. Further, the Code on Social Security, 2020 envisages a contribution between one to two per cent of annual turnover of an aggregator subject to maximum five per cent of the amount paid or payable by an aggregator to gig workers and platform workers. This shall be credited to the Social Security Fund. However, the same has not come into effect.
