

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 9
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2016**

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES FOR CASHEW WORKERS

***9. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include more categories of workers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has appointed a Commission to study the Social Security issues concerning cashew workers in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the main recommendations made by the said commission and the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and**
- (c) the details of Health Benefit Scheme being implemented by the Government for the welfare of cashew workers along with other measures taken to protect their interests, especially in case of default in remittance of contributions by the employers?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.09 FOR 18.07.2016 BY SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN
REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES FOR CASHEW WORKERS.**

(a):- Yes, Madam. The Government has decided to include certain more categories of workers like auto-rickshaw drivers, rickshaw pullers, domestic workers, volunteers of different schemes-Anganwadi, ASHA workers etc. and construction workers in the unorganized sectors under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

(b):- No, Madam. No Commission, specifically for Social Security issues of Cashew workers, has been constituted by the Government.

(c):- As far as Cashew workers are concerned, those employed in an establishment/factory covered under the ESI Act, are already getting all the benefits, including health benefits. In case of default in remittance of contribution by the employers, the interest and damages are taken from it under the provisions of ESI Regulations. Besides this, the prosecution action under Section 85 of ESI Act is also initiated for default.
