

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.04.2010
ANSWERED ON
MIGRANT LABOUR .

2851

Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia

Will the Minister of COALLABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 million migrant labourers are moving inside the country who are not getting minimum wages, social security, housing facility and public distribution system benefits even though we have a law of the land, inter- State migrant labour Act 1979; and

(b) whether Central Government has the statistics of migrant labour working in various States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): A Statement is annexed at Annexure-I.

(b): As per Census 2001, the total number of migrant workers in the country is 14,26,82,456. A Statement showing the number of migrant workers, state-wise is annexed at Annexure- II.

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2851 FOR 21.04.2010 BY SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA REGARDING MIGRANT LABOUR.

(a): In order to safeguard the economic and other interests of the migrant workers, the Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 which, inter alia, provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. The provisions of various labour laws like The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are also applicable on migrant workers.

The Government has also enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers including migrant workers.

On the recommendation in the Conference of Food Secretaries on 17-09-2004 and Food Ministers' Conference on 28-10-2004, Government of India issued guidelines to all State/U.T. Governments to consider using ration entitlement authority slip for the migrant labour/ displaced persons or homeless, which will be in the limited purpose for ration entitlement and are not treated as proof of residence, or entitlement for any other benefit, etc.