

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.04.2010
ANSWERED ON
UNORGANISED WORKERS IN SURAT .

2859

Shri Natuji Halaji Thakor

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

- (a) the total number of unorganized workers in Surat;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the standard of living of these unorganised workers is very low and not at par with those who came from other States viz. West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and employed in textiles, diamond, pharma and other industries; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the standard of living of these workers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total number of labourers was 45.9 crore. Out of which unorganized workers was 43.3 crore which constitute about 94% of the total workforce. The district wise data of unorganized workers is not available. Recognizing the need to improve the conditions of all categories of unorganized workers and with a view to providing social security to these workers, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and

State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers. Various schemes/ programmes are being implemented by the Government for improving the conditions of unorganised workers such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Apart from these, the Government has launched some new schemes such as the Aam Admi Bima Yojana to provide insurance against death and disability and the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance cover to BPL workers. BPL workers are primarily in the unorganised sector.