

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2798

TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.07.2019

Data of women domestic workers in the country

2798. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

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

- (a) the total number of registered/ unregistered women domestic workers including minors in the country, State/ UTwise;
- (b) whether Government is aware of such workers including minors being exploited and ill-treated in various work places/households in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the preventive steps taken/ being taken by Government in this regard and the measures taken to ensure the rights of such domestic workers;
- (d) whether Government proposes to formulate a national policy on domestic workers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to regulate placement agencies particularly with regard to domestic workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): As per the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) statistics (2011-12), an estimated 3.9 million workers are employed by private households, of which 1.3 million are male and 2.6 million are female workers. The data on registered/unregistered domestic workers is not maintained at the central level.

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(b) & (c): Whenever any complaint regarding exploitation of domestic workers is received, action is taken as per law. However, the central Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for providing social security to all unorganized workers including domestic workers. The Act provides formulation of social security schemes viz life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits & old age protection by the central Government. The State Governments are mandated under the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganized sector workers, including domestic workers, relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits housing, education schemes for children, skill up gradation of workers, financial assistance & old age homes.

(d) & (e): A draft National Policy on domestic workers is under consideration of the Central Government. The salient features of the draft policy are as under:-

- i. Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the existing legislations
- ii. Domestic workers will have the right to register as workers. Such registration will facilitate their access to rights & benefits accruing to them as workers.
- iii. Right to form their own associations , trade unions
- iv. Right to have minimum wages, access to social security, protection from abuse, harassment, violence
- v. Right to enhance their professional skills
- vi. Protection of Domestic Workers from abuse and exploitation
- vii. Domestic Workers to have access to courts, tribunals, etc.
- viii. Establishment of a mechanism for regulation of concerned placement agencies

The Ministry of Labour is working on a draft policy for regulation of placement agencies for domestic workers in consultation with the ILO and other Stakeholder. Further, action is being taken to extend the purview of the draft policy to include in it other placement agencies, which deal with placement of other kind of workers also. An advisory has also been issued to the State Government/UTs requesting them to take necessary steps for making legislation/ /policies for protection of domestic workers from exploitation by unscrupulous agents / unregistered placement agencies

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