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## **RGICS BRIEF**

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## A Review of Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008

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### **Introduction**

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 (UWSSA) defines an unorganized worker as a home based worker, self-employed worker or a wageworker in unorganized sector including unprotected workers in organized labour sector. Unorganized workers constitute nearly 94% of India's total workforce. A NSSO survey in 2009-10 estimated that out of total 46.5 crore workers in India, 43.7 crores are employed in unorganized sector. For the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) constituted in 2004 ,unorganized workers are a vulnerable workforce, for most of them conditions of work are utterly deplorable and livelihood options extremely few (NCEUS, 2007). Their vulnerability and persistent poverty is due to lack of any livelihood security, job security and social security. This problem has been rectified and highlighted in number of policy proposals and study reports in the past seven decades. Numerous commissions appointed by the Government of India have advocated for a comprehensive legislation to protect working conditions of these workers and ensure adequate social security to them. However, it remains an unfinished policy agenda so far.

While successive governments have failed to enact a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of unorganized workers, various schemes of social security for such workers were initiated in the past. These social welfare schemes range from old age pension to death and disability insurances for poor and vulnerable labourers. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 enacted by erstwhile UPA government was an initiative to streamline such schemes and ensure their effective implementation. The Act came into force on May 16, 2009. The Act provided for effective implementation and expansion of existing social security schemes in order to cover the large population of unorganized workers. In May 2018, the Act will complete nine years of its actual implementation. These first nine years need to be evaluated to understand its implementation and impact. This paper is a brief attempt to comment on the implementation of this Act and social security schemes scheduled under it.

### The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008

The Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 is a landmark legislation, which aims at protection of vulnerable unorganized workers across the country. Main features of the Act are as follows:

- Formulation of Social Security Schemes: Section 3 of the Act provides for formulation of social security schemes by Union Government for unorganized workers on matters relating to (a) life and disability cover, (b) health and maternity benefit (c) Old age protection and (d) any other scheme government want to. It also provides for formulation of scheme by State Governments on matter relating to (a) provident fund, (b) employment injury benefit, (c) housing, (d) educational scheme for children, (e) skill up gradation, (f) funeral assistance and (g) old age homes.
- **Constitution of National Social Security Board:** Section 5 of the Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board under chairmanship of Union Labour and Employment Minister with Director General (Labour Welfare) as member secretary. The board also consists of 34 nominated members representing various stakeholders such as workers, employers, civil society and parliamentarians.
- Functions of National Social Security Board: Section 5(8) of the Act provides for functions of the National Social Security Board. It includes: (a) Policy recommendation to central government on issues of unorganized workers, (b) Advising government on administrative issue arising out of the implementation of the Act, (c)

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Monitor schemes implemented by the government, (d) Review of functions performed at state level such as registration of workers, issuing identity cards to them and other record keeping systems.

- **Constitution of State Social Security Boards:** Section 6 of the Act provides for constitution of similar boards at state level.
- Functions of State Social Security Board: Section 6(8) of the Act lays down the functions of the State Social Security Board. It includes: (a) Policy recommendation to state government on issues of unorganized workers, (b) Advising government on administrative issues arising out of the implementation of the Act, (c) Monitor schemes implemented by the government, (d) Review of functions performed at district level such as registration of workers, issuing identity cards to them and other record keeping systems.
- **Registration of Unorganised Workers:** Section 9 of the Act provides for setting up of Workers' Facilitation Center by state governments to facilitated registration of workers and their enrollment under various schemes of Union and State government.
- Social Security Schemes: Section 3(2) of the Act provides for incorporation of 10 major social welfare schemes of the Union Government under this Act. It also provide for suitable amendment to the list of scheduled schemes by the government through notification.
- Scheduled Welfare Schemes: The Act schedules following schemes:
  - 1. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development)
  - 2. National Family Benefit Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development)
  - 3. Janani Suraksha Yojana (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
  - 4. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (Ministry of Textiles)
  - 5. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (Ministry of Textiles)
  - 6. Pension to Master Craft Persons (Ministry of Textiles)
  - 7. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries)
  - 8. Aam Admi Bima Yojana (Department of Financial Services)
  - 9. Janshree Bima Yojana (Department of Financial Services)
  - 10. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 on one the hand has developed a framework and guidelines for social security schemes by Union and State governments. On the other hand, it envisages expansion of existing schemes to all unorganized worker in more effective manner through mechanism developed by it.

### **Implementation of the Act**

The President of India Ms. Pratibha Patil signed the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008. It took another four and half months for the government to enact this law and it came into force on May 16, 2009. The Union government had also notified rules for the implementation of the Act in 2009. Therefore, by May 2009, the Act was all set for implementation. Let's analyse the major features listed above to know the status nearly nine years after its enactment.

• No addition in Social Security Schemes: The Act notified ten social welfare schemes under the law at the time of enactment and provided space for both central and state governments to add more schemes for various types of

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unorganized workers in order to provide them better social security. However, the Union minister of Labour and Employment informed the Rajya Sabha on December 27, 2017 that the government has not added any single scheme under the Act in last nine years. The government has been claiming that it has introduced Prime Minister Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) in 2015 as two additional welfare schemes for the unorganized workers. However, the fact is that both of these schemes are self financed and insurers under these two schemes need to bear the burden of policy premium. Given the situation of large number of poor and vulnerable unorganized workers, it is difficult for them to renew these two insurance policies on yearly basis.

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- Constitution of National Social Security Board and its Meetings: The government of India constituted the National Social Security Board on August 18, 2009 under the leadership of the Union minister of Labour and Employment. As per the law, the board should meet minimum thrice a year i-e once in four months. As per this calculation the board should have conducted a minimum of 27 meeting by the end of 2017. However, as per the annual report (2015-16) of Ministry of Labour and Employment, the board has held only eight meetings since its constitution in 2009. Annual reports of the ministry for various years also reveal that all of these meeting were held before 2013-14. It means that the board has not met in the last three and half years.
- Policy Recommendations by National Social Security Board: Policy recommendations on issues of unorganized workers and advising government on administrative issues arising out of implementation of the Act are two major functions of the board relating to policy planning. In last nine years, it only recommended three policy proposals. These recommendations are related to extension of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY) and Old Age Pension to certain categories of unorganized workers. Again, all of these recommendations were made before 2013-14.
- **Review of Function Performed at State Level:** The National Social Security Board is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the progress of function performed at state level such as registration of workers, enrollment of worker under various schemes and issuing them an identity card. Unfortunately, the Union ministry of Labour and Employment has no record related to number of workers registered as per the law. Despite the clear provision in the law regarding monitoring and review of records by the National board maintained by state, the government on December 27, 2017 informed the Rajya Sabha that it does not have record of registered unorganized workers, registered by state governments<sup>1</sup>.
- **Constitution of State Social Security Boards:** The law provides for constitution of State Social Security Board in every state for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Act. The Union government informed the Rajya Sabha on January 03, 2018 that all states excluding Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have set up state social security board under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008<sup>2</sup>. Consolidated information on meetings and other activities of these boards are not available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 1057, answered on 27.12.2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 1873, answered on 03.01.2018

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**Implementation of Selected Social Welfare Schemes** 

#### Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is one of the sub-schemes under National Social Assistant Program (NSAP) of Union Ministry of Rural Development. The IGNOAPS is a centrally sponsored flagship scheme that aims to provide pension to person of 60 years and above belonging to family living below poverty line (BPL). A central assistance of Rs. 200 per month is provided to persons in the age group of 60-79 years and Rs. 500 per month to person of 80 years and above. State/UT government shares responsibility of identification of beneficiaries, sanction and disbursement of pension under the scheme. Some state governments through their own resources top-ups monthly pension paid under this scheme. Details of total beneficiaries and actual expenditure of the union government on this scheme for last few years is given below.

| (IGNOAPS) |                             |                                     |  |  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Year      | Beneficiaries<br>(in Crore) | Total Expenditure<br>(Rs. in Crore) |  |  |
| 2008-09   | 1.50                        | 3,422.00                            |  |  |
| 2009-10   | 1.63                        | 4,354.00                            |  |  |
| 2010-11   | 1.70                        | 3,528.00                            |  |  |
| 2011-12   | 2.13                        | 5,749.57                            |  |  |
| 2012-13   | 2.23                        | 5,611.44                            |  |  |
| 2013-14   | NA                          | 6,681.05                            |  |  |
| 2014-15   | 2.29                        | 6,834.02                            |  |  |
| 2015-16   | 2.29                        | 6,029.22                            |  |  |

| Table-I                                       |
|---|
| Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme |
| (IGNOAPS)                                     |

#### **Compiled from:**

Loksabha Unstarred Question No. 1876, Answered on 4.12.14 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 2671, Answered on 12.12.15 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Quesiton No. 43.7, Answered on 06.05.13 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Quesiton No. 3681, Answered on 29.4.13 Twelfth Five Year Plan Document, Planning Commission of India, Government of India 32<sup>nd</sup> report of Loksabha Standing Committee on Rural Development

Until 2010-11 a pension of Rs. 200 per month was being provided to people of and above 65 years under this scheme. From April 2011, the government relaxed the minimum age from 65 years to 60 years and enhanced the pension amount for persons aged 80 years and above from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month<sup>3</sup>. This change was expected to cover nearly 72 lakh people in the age group of 60 to 64 years and 26 lakh people above the age of 80 years. The above table shows that this policy change in 2011 led to substantial increase in expenditure from 2011-12 onwards. The government's expenditure under this scheme has increased from Rs. 3,422 crore in 2008-09 to Rs. 6,029 crore in 2015-16. In terms of beneficiaries of the IGNOAPS, the policy change showed marginal increase in number of pensioners from 1.7 crore in 2010-11 to 2.29 crore in 2015-16. Data in above table suggests that within two years after enactment of UWSSA in 2009,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Report, 2012

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government attempted to extend the universe of beneficiaries and enhanced assistant to a particular section of pensioners. However, the pension being paid under the scheme remains very low. The current rate of pension (i-e Rs. 200 per month) was decided in 2005-06. Therefore, it remains unchanged in last thirteen years.

#### **National Family Benefit Scheme**

The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) is another sub-scheme under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) funded by the Union Ministry of Rural Development. Under this scheme, a BPL household is given a onetime financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 on the death of primary bread winner aged between 18 and 59 years. This amount of financial assistance was Rs. 10,000 from 2006 to 2012. Year wise total number of beneficiaries and amount spent by the government is given in following table.

| National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) |                             |                               |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Year                                  | Beneficiaries<br>(in lakhs) | Expenditure<br>(Rs. in Crore) |  |
| 2008-09                               | 4.23                        | 329.0                         |  |
| 2009-10                               | 3.43                        | 154.0                         |  |
| 2010-11                               | 3.35                        | 324.0                         |  |
| 2011-12                               | 3.30                        | 123.8                         |  |
| 2012-13                               | 2.53                        | 361.9                         |  |
| 2013-14                               | NA                          | 345.0                         |  |
| 2014-15                               | 2.90                        | 377.8                         |  |
| 2015-16                               | 3.60                        | 473.4                         |  |

|                                       | Table-II |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) |          |  |  |
|                                       |          |  |  |

#### Compiled from:

Loksabha Unstarred Question No. 1876, Answered on 4.12.14 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 2671, Answered on 12.12.15 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Quesiton No. 43.7, Answered on 06.05.13 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Quesiton No. 3681, Answered on 29.4.13 Twelfth Five Year Plan Document, Planning Commission of India, Government of India

32<sup>nd</sup> report of Loksabha Standing Committee on Rural Development

The government of India enhanced the financial assistance under the scheme in 2012 (within three years after enactment of UWSSA, 2008). However, there has not been any change after that.

#### Janani Suraksha Yojana

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM). The aim of the scheme is to reduce maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional deliveries among poor pregnant women. The scheme has two types of financial incentive schemes, one for pregnant women from low performing states and second for women of state performing relatively better on maternal and child health indicators. Based on these health outcomes, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan, Orissa and Jammu & Kashmir are categorized as low performing states (LPS). Remaining States and UTs are High performing states (HPS) for the purpose of this scheme. Pregnant women from LPS are entitled for one time cash incentive of Rs. 1400 for

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her institutionalized delivery. The same incentive is Rs. 700 for pregnant women from HPS. JSY is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in April 2005, run by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. State governments execute the scheme. Year wise detail of beneficiaries and actual expenditure of the scheme is given in following table.

| Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) |   |  |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Beneficiaries<br>(in crore)  | SPIP<br>Approved (Rs.<br>in crore)  | Actual<br>Expenditure<br>(Rs. in crores)   |  |
| 1.06                         | 1,680.51  | 1,619.33   |  |
| 1.09                         | 1,741.06  | 1,606.19   |  |
| 1.06                         | 1,809.67  | 1,672.42   |  |
| 1.06                         | 2,018.97  | 1,764.33   |  |
| 1.04                         | 2,039.81  | 1,777.04   |  |
| 1.04                         | 1,963.37  | 1,708.72   |  |
|                              | Beneficiaries<br>(in crore)<br>1.06<br>1.09<br>1.06<br>1.06<br>1.04<br>1.04 | Beneficiaries<br>(in crore) SPIP<br>Approved (Rs.<br>in crore)   1.06 1,680.51   1.09 1,741.06   1.06 1,809.67   1.06 2,018.97   1.04 2,039.81 |  |

**Table-III** 

Source: Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question. No. 2671, Answered on 22.12.15

. Figures in table-III shows that both beneficiaries and spending on scheme remain almost constant in last six years. One of the reasons for this could be the lack of changes in policy guidelines. However in terms of outcome and impact of the scheme, India has achieved several mile stones in the area of safe motherhood. According to the National Family Health Survey, the share of institutional deliveries has increased from 38.7% in 2005-06 to 78.9% in 2015-16. It also reveals that out of total deliveries from 2011 to 2015 more than 36% mothers have received financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana.

### Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) and Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY)

Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY) is a group insurance scheme launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide life and disability protection to the rural and urban poor persons below poverty line. It also covers persons marginally above poverty line engaged in selected occupations. T LIC launched this policy in August 2000 and merged with Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana in January 2013. A group of minimum 25 people in the age group of 18 to 59 years was eligible for life and disability cover at nominal annual premium of Rs. 200 per person. 50% of the premium cost was born by government of India through Social Security Fund administered by LIC and remaining 50% by nodal agency or members<sup>4</sup>.

Seven years later the government of India launched the ambitious Aam aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 to provide insurance to the head of the family of rural landless households against natural death, accidental death and partial/permanent disability. AABY extends life and disability covers to persons between the age of 18 years to 59 years living below and marginally above the poverty line classified under 47 identified vocational/occupational groups. Since there were administrative and operational similarities between AABY and JBY, the government later decided to merge these two schemes and run them in the name of Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana. Unlike JBY, the AABY also provides for scholarship to children of insurer studying in class  $9^{th}$  to  $12^{th}$  (including ITI) at the rate of Rs. 1,200 per year per child, up

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://financialservices.gov.in/sites/default/files/AnnualReport2010-11.pdf

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to two child maximum. The cost of premium remains Rs 200 per year equally divided between central government and nodal agency. The nodal agency includes state governments, government departments, institutions or NGOs.

| Eligibility Criteria    |   |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Age Group               | 18-59 years   |  |  |  |
| Annual Premium          | Rs. 200 (equally shared by Central government and nodal agency) |  |  |  |
| Insurance Benefits      |   |  |  |  |
| Natural Death           | Rs. 30,000  |  |  |  |
| Accidental Death        | Rs. 75,000  |  |  |  |
| Partial Disability      | Rs. 37,500  |  |  |  |
| Permanent Disability    | Rs. 75,000  |  |  |  |
| Scholarship Benefits    |   |  |  |  |
| Scholarship Eligibility | Son/daughter of insurer studying in class 9 <sup>th</sup> to    |  |  |  |
|                         | 12 <sup>th</sup> (including ITI)                                |  |  |  |
| Scholarship Amount      | Rs. 1,200 per year  |  |  |  |

#### **Eligibility Criteria and Benefits under AABY**

Source: Department of Financial Services, GoI

#### Table-IV Total Beneficiaries of Aam Aadami Bima Yojana (AABY) and Janshree Bima Yojana (JBY)

| _ | Beneficiaries (in crores) |      |      |       |
|---|---------------------------|------|------|-------|
|   | Year                      | AABY | JBY  | Total |
|   | 2009-10                   | 1.3  | 1.84 | 3.14  |
|   | 2010-11                   | 1.77 | 2.09 | 3.86  |
|   | 2011-12                   | 2.02 | 2.2  | 4.22  |
|   | 2014-15                   | 4.32 | -    | 4.32  |
|   | 2015-16                   | 4.51 | -    | 4.51  |

Source: Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 3136, Answered on 23.4.13

Data shows that there has been steady growth in number of enrollments in last few years. The total beneficiaries under AABY and JBY has increased from 3.14 crore in 2009-10 to 4.51 crore in 2015-16. After the enactment of the UWSSA, 2008 the enrollment under the scheme increased by more than a crore. However this enrollment is very little as compared to the size of its target group. According to the NSSO report there are more than 43 crore unorganized workers in India. The current enrollment is barely 10% of total workers. Actual expenditure under the scheme in last few years is given in following table (Table V).

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| (Rs. in crore) |                          |                      |        |  |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------|--|
| Year           | Social Security<br>outgo | Scholarship<br>Outgo | Total  |  |
| 2012-13        | 569.10                   | 119.39               | 688.49 |  |
| 2013-14        | 296.30                   | 279.00               | 575.30 |  |
| 2014-15        | 340.70                   | 276.96               | 617.66 |  |
| 2015-16        | 436.58                   | 204.88               | 641.46 |  |
| 2016-17        | 385.34                   | 231.85               | 617.19 |  |

Table-V Aam Aadami Bima Yojana (AABY) Fund outgo

Source: Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, Answered on 07.08.2015

The Central share of premium and scholarship disbursement is born through National Social Security Fund constituted by the government and administered by the LIC. After enactment of the UWSSA, 2008, the then UPA government released Rs. 1,500 crore to the National Social Security Fund. Out of this amount, Rs. 1,000 crore was released for AABY fund and Rs. 500 crore for Scholarship fund.

### Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) is a centrally sponsored scheme currently implemented by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It provides health insurance coverage of Rs. 30,000 per year to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families (A unit of five). It became operational in April 2008 and rolled out by Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. The scheme later shifted to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and was renamed as Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (RSSY) and has been again renamed as National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) in the last budget. After the enactment of the scheme in 2008, the government of India extended it to workers even above poverty line engaged in certain occupations. Currently it provides health insurance to 11 occupational groups of unorganized workers including Building & Other Construction Workers, Licensed Railway Porters, Street Vendors, MGNREGA workers (who have worked for more than fifteen days during preceding financial year), Beedi workers, Domestic workers, Sanitation Workers, Mine Workers, Rickshaw pullers, Rag pickers and Auto/Taxi drivers. The government has plan to extend the benefits of this scheme to all unorganized workers in a phased manner<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>http://labour.nic.in/sites/default/files/English\_Annual\_Report%202016-17.pdf</u>

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| Kashtriya Swastnya Bima Yojana (KSBY) |                             |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Year                                  | Beneficiaries<br>(in crore) | Final Budget<br>Estimated<br>(Rs. in Crore) | Actual<br>Expenditure<br>(Rs. in Crore) |
| 2011-12                               | 3.11                        | 984.30                                      | 922.97                                  |
| 2012-13                               | 3.74                        | 1177.60                                     | 1,056.79                                |
| 2013-14                               | 3.85                        | 891.92                                      | 885.91                                  |
| 2014-15                               | 3.59                        | 544.42                                      | 496.63                                  |
| 2015-16                               | 4.13                        | 675.10                                      | 576.15                                  |
| 2016-17                               | 3.63                        | 436.66                                      | 329.16                                  |

Table Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

**Compiled from** 

Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 2057, Answered on 09.03.2015 Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 433, Answered on 19.12.2017 Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 157, Answered on 15.12.2017

The consistent low public spending on health care by successive governments has increased vulnerability of poor and disadvantaged. Of the total health expenditure in India, 69% comes from Out of Pocket (OOP) payment by household<sup>6</sup>. The RSBY or NHPS is a small step towards lowering burden of poor in this country. It aims to cover all unorganized workers, which is approximately a 43 crore population. However, the data shown in above table reveals that there has not been any substantial increase in enrollment of workers under this scheme in last few years. Even the roll out of UWSSA, 2008 could not accelerate the extension of scheme in last nine years.

### **Conclusion**

The unorganized sector contributes nearly 50% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the nation<sup>7</sup>; however, unorganized workers receive almost nothing as social security. According to an analysis by Center for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), spending on major social security schemes for unorganized workers is not even 0.1 percent of the GDP. Furthermore, the government spending on these schemes has observed a steady decline from 0.09% in 2013-14 to 0.07% in 2017-18(BE)<sup>8</sup>. Therefore, the enactment of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 was a substantial step towards extending minimum social security benefit to 94% of Indian workers (unorganized workers). It envisaged social security net for all workers by creating dedicated institutions such as National, State Social Security Boards, and Workers' Facilitation Centers at district level. Nine years down the line, it remains just another policy document with no interest and enthusiasm from the government to roll it out in its letter and spirit.

Available information reveals that in first 2-3 years, there were some efforts from the union government to build dedicated institutions as per the law and rationalize benefit of schemes. Efforts of the government include increasing financial entitlements under some schemes such as IGNOAP and expansion of AABY and RSBY to benefit workers above BPL line in certain occupational groups. Annual reports of the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment reveals that the National Social Security Board constituted under the law was active and influential in recommending policy changes to

 $^{6}\ \underline{http://www.thehindu.com/data/Health-in-India-Where-the-money-comes-from-and-where-it-goes/article14594704.ece}$ 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://nceuis.nic.in/Final\_Booklet\_Working\_Paper\_2.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://unionbudget2017.cbgaindia.org/social\_security/social\_security\_as\_per\_of\_gdp.html

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the government. This initial enthusiasm went down later and in last 3-4 years, there is almost no activity at the central level. The National Board could not held even one meeting after 2013-14. As a result of which the policy has not been updated. There are numerous complaints regarding abysmally low financial incentive and outdated criteria for enrollment under number of these schemes. However, it seems that the Social Security Board has no time to meet and discuss these issues. One of the major goals of the law was to extend the social security net and cover all unorganized workers. But, the data shows that there is almost no progress in increasing enrollment of workers under various scheduled schemes in last few years. The current stagnation in the implantation of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 is not mere a violation of the law by the government but it also denies millions of worker their due share.

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