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Title: Regarding enacting a law for domestic workers-Laid.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR): The National Sample Survey has estimated that more than 40 lakh domestic workers employed in private households, nearly 95% of them are women. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 for the unorganised sector workers has mandated for providing social security to all unorganized workers including domestic workers. The Act provides formulation of social security schemes such as 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. But all this only remains on paper. Nothing has so far been done neither at the central level nor at the state level. Domestic workers are very vulnerable and subjected to all kinds of exploitation including sexual exploitation. This section is expanding with the increasing migration from the rural to urban areas. This vast section of women workers should be covered under specific and exclusive law. Very few states including Tamil Nadu have brought domestic work under Schedule 1 and notified minimum wages. But it is very paltry. National level minimum wage for domestic workers not less than Rs. 600/- per day should be notified under law.

India is yet to ratify the ILO Convention C 189 on domestic workers passed in the ILC 2011. But India has principally agreed to the provisions of the convention.

I call upon the government to immediately consider enacting a law for the domestic workers. This should include right to minimum wage, weekly off, bonus, social security, protection from abuse and harassment, right to access to courts and tribunals.