

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1649
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME FOR GIG WORKERS

1649. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

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

- (a) the estimated commencement date for providing access to gig workers healthcare under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme;**
- (b) the number of gig workers expected to benefit from the said proposal;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted a census or survey to count the number of gig workers in the country;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the methodology, sample size and year of conduct;**
- (e) the details of budgetary allocation made by the Government for gig workers under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme;**
- (f) the manner in which the Government will allocate funds to cover the healthcare needs of gig workers from the total funds dedicated to the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, if the exact amount has not been specified;**
- (g) whether the Government intends to extend additional social security benefits to gig workers, such as accident insurance, pension schemes, or maternity benefits, in line with the provisions under the Code on Social Security, 2020; and**
- (h) if so, the details thereof along with timeline for implementing these social security benefits for gig workers?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (h): For the first time, the definition of 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' and provisions related to the same have been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has been enacted by the Parliament.

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The Code provides for framing of suitable social security measures for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc.

As per an estimation by NITI Aayog vide its report titled “India`s Booming Gig and Platform Economy” published in June 2022, the number of gig workers and platform workers, in the country was 7.7 million in 2020-21, which is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers of online platforms, the Union Government in its Budget announcement made on 1.2.2025, proposed to register them on e-Shram portal, arrange for their identity cards and provide health care under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) health scheme.

The scheme is proposed to be implemented through National Health Authority (NHA) by expanding the base of the existing AB-PMJAY scheme by including platform workers. The Ministry is working for its early implementation.
