

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
INSURANCE COVER TO INDIAN MIGRANT LABOUR
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government's proposal to provide mandatory insurance cover to Indian migrant labour has been put on hold;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the labourers in critical areas are also not covered under the insurance scheme;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to cover all the labourers there-under;
- (e) whether the Government have recommended amendments in the Emigration Act to check exploitation and provide social security to the migrant labourers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (f): The provision for providing insurance cover besides other welfare measures for vulnerable categories of workers going abroad for employment exists in the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002. The Bill provides for an Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund to be administered by Central Manpower Export Promotion Council. This Fund will be utilized for (i) arranging repatriation of stranded workers, (ii) transportation of dead bodies, and (iii) granting assistance to partially or permanently disabled emigrants for injuries sustained while in legal employment abroad.