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Title : Need to set up a social welfare corporation/board for providing social security to the workers in unorganized sector particularly to Banjari community of Maharashtra.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGLE): Unorganized sector today comprises of contract workers, home-based workers and most of them are semi-skilled and unskilled workers, home based artisans etc. It is a low wage and low earning sector whose workers constitute an important section of the workers. The share of unorganised sector in total employment is around 93 percent. However, a large segment of the unorganized labour today is deprived of social security viz. health care, maternity and early child care, PF benefits, amenity benefits such as housing, drinking water, sanitation. Their children are deprived of basic education.

From my own state Maharashtra, Banjari workers of OBC community migrate from Western Maharashtra to Marathawada and Vidarbha region to work in Sugarcane fields. They remain in this region for quite some time. During this period, these children are deprived of education, female members of the family suffer sexual abuses. Non-availability of health and medical facilities, malnutrition of children, no insurance protection put lot of burden on the family.

To mitigate their sufferings, there is a dire need for an independent Social Welfare Corporation/Board and laws for ensuring social security.

I would like to urge the Government to come out with a law to provide social security to the workers of unorganized sector especially the one I mentioned above. Workers and their families who have migrated from villages and small towns to urban areas and metropolitan cities deserve better treatment.

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