

PRESS RELEASE

**SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL WORKERS
PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SECURITY
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT
JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI
6TH JULY, 2018**

A national Seminar on International Workers was held today i.e. 06.7.2018 at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

2. With a view to protect the rights of migrant workers, Government of India decided to sign bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with different countries. So far India has signed SSAs with 18 different countries. The SSA coordinates the social security schemes of two contracting states in order to overcome the barriers and facilitate extension of benefits to beneficiaries.
3. In order to implement the provisions of bilateral SSAs, special provisions for International Worker (IW) were introduced in the EPF Scheme and Employees' Pension Scheme and given effect from 1st October, 2008.
4. The Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, is the nodal ministry for initiating negotiations for SSA on bilateral basis. Besides, the Ministry of Labour & Employment and EPFO are also involved in the process of negotiations. EPFO has been designated as the Nodal Liaison Agency to operate the provisions of the SSAs and for issuing Certificates of Coverage (COC) to the employees when they are posted abroad in a country having SSA with India.
5. Participants from 44 different establishments from across the country and officers of EPFO took part in the seminar.
6. Secretary, Labour & Employment, Shri Heera Lal Samariya inaugurated the seminar. He highlighted initiatives of the Government of India on issues involving job, wage & Social Security. He appreciated the e-Governance initiatives of EPFO.
7. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Shri Sunil Barthwal, presided over. He highlighted that India sends 4th largest number of immigrants abroad and is in top 10 countries receiving migrant workers. He therefore stressed the need for improving the social security services to migrant workers.



