

Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023

Source: IE

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023,** introduced by the Rajasthan government, aims to provide additional income support to people in the state. The Bill seeks to help citizens cope with <u>inflation</u> and improve their financial stability.

 The Bill has three broad categories: right to minimum guaranteed income, right to guaranteed employment, and right to guaranteed social security pension.

What is the Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023?

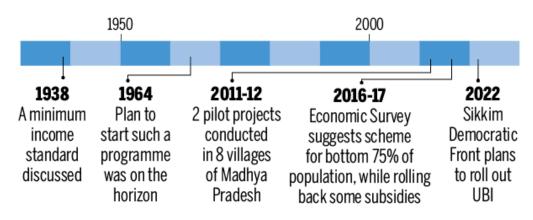
- Key Components of the Bill:
 - Right to Minimum Guaranteed Income:
 - The Bill guarantees a minimum income for every adult citizen for 125 days a
 year.
 - Each adult citizen will receive minimum income through the <u>Indira Gandhi Shahri</u>
 <u>Rozgar Guarantee Yojana</u> in urban areas and the <u>Mahatma Gandhi National</u>
 <u>Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)</u> in rural areas.
 - The state will add 25 days of employment to MGNREGA's 100 days for rural areas.
 - Right to Guaranteed Employment:
 - The government will **pay minimum wages weekly or fortnightly** after the completion of work in urban and rural employment schemes.
 - A designated officer will ensure job sites are within five kilometers of the registered job card address.
 - If employment is not provided within 15 days of application, the applicant will receive a weekly unemployment allowance "and in any case not later than a fortnight."
 - Right to Guaranteed Social Security Pension:
 - The Bill ensures that people falling under categories like old age, specially abled, widows, and single women receive a pension.
 - The pension will see an annual increase of 15% in two installments, starting from the financial year 2024-2025.
- Distinguishing from Cash Transfer Schemes:
 - The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill is unique as it legally guarantees both minimum income support and guaranteed employment and pensions, setting it apart from regular cash transfer schemes. It reflects Mahatma Gandhi's vision of comprehensive welfare measures.
 - The Bill covers **all families in the state**, offering employment and pension support to various vulnerable groups. **Cash transfer schemes may have limited coverage.**
 - The Bill includes annual increment in pensions, ensuring they keep pace with inflation. Cash transfer schemes may not have such provisions.
 - The Bill takes a comprehensive approach towards social security, aiming to benefit vulnerable sections of society.

Criticism against the Bill:

- While the Bill has received praise for its efforts to address economic disparities, some critics argue that the additional expenditure of Rs 2,500 crore per year may strain the state's finances.
- They express concerns about the long-term sustainability of the scheme and the potential burden it may place on taxpayers.

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INDIA'S TRYST WITH INCOME SUPPORT



UBI ACROSS THE WORLD

US | Alaska Permanent Fund distributes part of the state's oil revenues to all residents on per-capita basis

Stockton, California

Secured funding from private non-profits to launch a small project with about 100 participants receiving \$500 a month for about 18 months

Finland | Scheme started in 2017 to pay 2,000 jobless people assistance of €560 a month stopped last year

Kenya | Largest experiment underway with some villages receiving \$0.50-1 a day

Brazil | Has run experiments

Canada | Ontario plans to test a basic income scheme



France | A senate committee has recommended an experiment

UK & Germany | Studies have been conducted

Scotland | Committed funds to conduct an experiment

Barcelona, British Columbia | Plans to start experiments

Switzerland | Plan to give everyone right to basic income defeated in 2016