

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2172
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2023
IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON EMPLOYMENT

2172. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment, particularly in sectors most affected by job losses;**
- (b) whether Government has taken steps towards recovery in this regard;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such steps; and**
- (d) the State-wise and sector-wise details of unemployment?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) collects the data on Employment and Unemployment through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of every year. As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR), indicating employment, on usual status for persons of age 15 years & above in the country has significantly increased to 56.0% during 2022-23 as compared to 50.9% during 2019-20. On the other hand, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years & above in the country has decreased to 3.2% during 2022-23 as compared to 4.8% during 2019-20. The data indicates that the labour force indicators in 2022-23 are better than pre Covid period.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment in the country.

Investments in Infrastructure and productive capacity have a large multiplier impact on growth and employment. The budget of 2023-24 proposed to increase capital investment outlay steeply for the third year in a row by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP. This substantial increase in recent years is central to the government's efforts to enhance growth potential and job creation.

The Government of India has announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid-19. Under this package, the Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rupees Twenty Seven lakh crore. This package comprises of various long term schemes/programmes/policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was 31.03.2022. Since inception of the scheme, till 22.11.2023, benefits have been provided to 60.48 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme.

Government is implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) since June 01, 2020 to facilitate collateral free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. As on 23.11.2023, 78.08 lakh loans have been sanctioned under the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched by the Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. As on 17.11.2023, more than 44.41 crore loans amounting to Rs. 26.08 lakh crore have been sanctioned since launch of the scheme.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes is being implemented by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, for a period of 5 years starting from 2021-22 which have potential for creating 60 lakh new jobs.

PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines, namely, Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure. This approach is powered by Clean Energy and SabkaPrayas leading to huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

The Government of India is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. DeenDayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs) and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. for employment generation.

To enhance the employability of the youth, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the "National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)" wherein the Government reimburses 25 percent of the stipend payable to apprentices.

The Government is implementing a programme for skilling of rural youth for entrepreneurship development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs).

Besides these initiatives, various flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Digital India, Housing for All etc. are also oriented towards generating employment opportunities in the country.

All these initiatives are expected to collectively generate employment in the medium to long term through multiplier-effects.
