

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 723
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR FORCE

723. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the percentage of women in Labour Force Participation Ratio (LFPR) in the last three years;**
- (b) the comparative ratio of women in LFPR in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in the last year; and**
- (c) the details of steps being taken to increase share of women in India's labour force?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of the next year.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated women Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for women of age 15 years and above was 32.5%, 32.8% and 37.0% during 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively. The data indicates that the women participation in labour force has increasing trend over the years.

The national data on labour force participation rates of different countries may not be comparable due to differences in concepts and methodologies.

The Government has taken various steps to improve women's participation in the labour force and quality of their employment. A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in the labour laws for equal opportunity and congenial work environment for women workers.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 has the provisions for enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, provision for mandatory crèche facility in the establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions (OSH), 2020 has the provisions for the employment of women in the aboveground mines including opencast workings has been allowed between 7 pm and 6 am, and in below ground working between 6 am and 7 pm in technical, supervisory and managerial work where continuous presence may not be required.

The Code on Wages 2019 has provisions that there shall be no discrimination in an establishment or any unit thereof among employees on the ground of gender in matters relating to wages by the same employer, in respect of the same work or work of similar nature done by any employee. Further, no employer shall make any discrimination on the ground of sex while recruiting any employee for the same work or work of similar nature in the conditions of employment, except where the employment of women in such work is prohibited or restricted by or under any law for the time being in force.

To enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.
