

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 729
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT IN RURAL YOUTH

729. SMT. KANTA KARDAM :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there has been an increase in unemployment among the youth in rural areas;**
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to address the issue, if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether Government proposes to organize any job fair to provide employment opportunities to the youth especially in rural areas; and**
- (d) if so, the State/UT-wise details of employment fairs organized so far during the last year, if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

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

As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years in rural areas has reduced to 8.0% during 2022-23 as compared to 10.6% during the year 2021-22.

The estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in rural areas has reduced to 2.4% during 2022-23 as compared to 3.2% during the year 2021-22.

The data indicates that the unemployment rate in the country has a declining trend over the years.

The Government is implementing the National Career Service (NCS) Project to provide a variety of career related services like job matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, etc. The NCS Project also includes setting up of Model Career Centres (MCCs) in collaboration with States/UTs and other institutions to deliver various career related services like providing career counseling / vocational guidance, conducting job fairs, outreach activities etc. During the year 2023, total 7,566 job fairs were conducted across the country. The State-wise number of job fairs conducted during 2023 is at Annexure.

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, including rural youth.

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 has provided 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 19.01.2024, benefits have been provided to 60.49 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme.

The Government is implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (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 31.01.2024, 83.67 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. Upto 26.01.2024, 46.16 crore loans were sanctioned under the scheme.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme 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 Sabka Prayas 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) and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. for employment generation.

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

Further, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to enhance the employability of youth.

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.

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

**Annexure referred to in reply of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 729 due for reply on 08.02.2024****State-wise number of job fairs conducted during 2023**

S. No.	State	Job Fair Count
1	Andhra Pradesh	841
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3	Assam	78
4	Bihar	630
5	Chandigarh	1
6	Chhattisgarh	183
7	Delhi	49
8	Gujarat	721
9	Haryana	70
10	Himachal Pradesh	16
11	Jammu & Kashmir	204
12	Jharkhand	414
13	Karnataka	335
14	Kerala	103
15	Madhya Pradesh	21
16	Maharashtra	495
17	Manipur	15
18	Meghalaya	42
19	Mizoram	7
20	Nagaland	18
21	Odisha	900
22	Puducherry	50
23	Punjab	392
24	Rajasthan	234
25	Sikkim	14
26	Tamil Nadu	210
27	Telangana	154
28	Tripura	16
29	Uttar Pradesh	1079
30	Uttarakhand	65
31	West Bengal	196
	Total	7566