

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *36
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

***36. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken to boost employment opportunities in the country, particularly for women and the rural workforce;**
- (b) the manner in which Government is ensuring the implementation of social security schemes for workers in the informal sector, including gig workers and daily wage earners; and**
- (c) the initiatives put in place to reduce the migration of workers from rural to urban areas by creating local employment opportunities?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 36 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28.11.2024 BY K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR, M.P. REGARDING “EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY”

(a) to (c): Employment generation coupled with improving employability is a priority of Government. Government has taken various initiatives/measures to boost employment opportunities in the country, including for women and rural workforce.

A number of provisions have been incorporated in the labour laws for equal opportunity and congenial work environment for women workers, such as paid maternity leave, child care leave, creche facility, equal wages etc.

Government is also implementing various schemes to boost female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), as well as, for rural workforce, like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Stand-UP India Scheme, Startup India, Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Women in Science and Engineering- KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN), SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Production Linked Incentive, etc. The details of various employment generation schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government of India may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

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

Further, Government announced in the Budget 2024-25, the Prime Minister’s package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of Rs. 2 lakh crore. The budget also announced setting up of working women hostels in collaboration with industry, and establishing creches, for participation of women in the workforce, apart from other policy interventions.

As per the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, the Government is mandated to provide Social Security to the workers of unorganized sector by formulating suitable welfare schemes on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc. The details of the social security schemes available for unorganised sector workers are as follows:

- (i) Life and Disability cover is provided through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Risk coverage under PMJJBY scheme is for Rs. 2.00 Lakh in case of death of insured, due to any reason, at annual premium of Rs. 436/-. The risk coverage under PMSBY is Rs. 2.00 Lakh in case of accidental death or total permanent disability and Rs. 1.00 lakh for partial permanent disability due to accident at a premium of Rs. 20/- per annum.**
- (ii) The health benefits are insured through Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) under deprivation and occupation criteria. It provides health insurance coverage upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs per family for secondary and tertiary care related hospitalization.**
- (iii) In order to provide old age protection to unorganised sector workers, the Government of India had launched a pension scheme in 2019 namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PMSYM) to provide a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- after attaining the age of 60 years to unorganized workers.**

The provisions of social security & welfare for unorganised workers including gig workers have already been introduced in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has been enacted by the Parliament. The Code provides for framing of suitable social security measures for unorganised workers including gig workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age pension, etc. The Code also provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance the welfare scheme.

Government has launched eShram portal with the objective to facilitate delivery of Social Security/ welfare Schemes to the unorganised workers including gig and platform workers.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme which provides for enhancement of livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country, by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
