GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2348 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR GIG WORKERS

2348. # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to provide social security benefits to gig workers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the increase in number of gig workers during the last two years;
- (c) the number of gig workers targeted and timeline set for providing social security during the current year 2025-26, if so, the number of gig workers expected to be benefitted; and
- (d) whether Government has any data regarding job loss of gig workers, if so, the details thereof, and the details of measures being taken to provide them employment?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) to (d): For the first time, the definition of 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' and provisions related to the same have been provided 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 gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc.

As per an estimation by NITI Aayog vide its report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy" published in June 2022, the number of gig workers and platform workers, in the country was 7.7 million in 2020-21, which is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers of online platforms, the Union Government in its Budget announcement made on 1.2.2025, proposed to register them on e-Shram portal, arrange for their identity cards and provide health care under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) health scheme.
