GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3113 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE OF GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

3113. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) whether Government has estimated the total number of gig and platform workers in the country, and if so, the details thereof, including State-wise and sector-wise data for the last five years;
- (b) the number of gig workers registered on the e-Shram portal and the percentage availing social security schemes; and
- (c) the number of gig workers who have received benefits under any Central or State-run social security schemes, including health insurance, accident coverage or pension-related initiatives?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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.

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.

An advisory has been issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to platform aggregators to register themselves and platform workers engaged with them on the e-Shram portal. This will facilitate the platform workers to get easy access to the social security benefits.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also launched the e-Shram- "One- Stop- Solution' that entails integration of different social security/ welfare schemes at single portal i.e., e-Shram. This is envisaged to enable unorganised workers registered on e-Shram to access social security schemes and see benefits availed by them so far, through e-Shram.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers on online platforms, the 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.
