

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025**

INDIA'S WORKING AGE POPULATION

**1372. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken a note of the observations made in the United Nations Population Fund 2025 State of World Population Report regarding India's growing working age population (15–64 years) and the potential demographic dividend;**
- (b) if so, the current estimated size of this population and projected growth over the next decade;**
- (c) whether Government has assessed risks of this dividend becoming a burden without adequate skilling and job creation; and**
- (d) if so, the key initiatives undertaken, including national skill development, digital literacy, job training and MSME-led employment generation?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the UNFPA India data, India has an estimated population of 1463.9 million in 2025, of which 68.7 % is aged between 15-64.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability, including for youth, is a priority of the Government. Accordingly, Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes.

These inter-alia include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal

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Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), etc. The details of various employment generation schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Government is implementing Skill India Mission (SIM) to deliver skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ schools/ colleges /institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready, equipped with industry relevant skills.

In addition, the Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

Further, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, is running the National Career Service (NCS) Portal which is a one-stop solution for providing career related services including jobs from private and government sectors, information on online & offline job fairs, job search & matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, digital skill enhancement programmes etc., through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in].

The Government has focused on the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, recognizing its pivotal role in the economy and employment generation. The Union Budget 2025-26 introduces a series of measures aimed at strengthening the MSME sector by enhancing credit access, supporting first-time entrepreneurs, and promoting labour-intensive industries.