

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025**

WELFARE OF INFORMAL WORKERS

1338. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the informal sector in the country contributes nearly 50% of India's GDP but lacks formal protection and opportunity and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether Government has proposed a National mission called Digital ShramSetu to build an inclusive AI ecosystem for informal workers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Union Government uses AI, blockchain and immersive technologies to address challenges like financial insecurity and lack of skilling in informal sector; and**
- (d) the effective measures taken by Government to increase the average annual income of informal workers in the country?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per National Accounts Statistics, the informal sector contributed about 45% to the total GDP of the economy in FY 2022-23.

A study was conducted by NITI Aayog to systematically explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and frontier technologies can be harnessed to transform the lives and livelihoods of India's 490 million informal workers – the backbone of the nation's economy.

The Government, through NITI Aayog, has proposed a National Mission titled Digital ShramSetu as part of its roadmap on "AI for Inclusive Societal Development" to build an inclusive, technology-enabled ecosystem for informal workers in the country.

Contd..2/-

The proposed Mission aims to create a digital bridge for the empowerment of informal workers by leveraging frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, blockchain and immersive learning tools. The Mission seeks to address key challenges faced by informal workers, including lack of verifiable identity, work records, skill credentials, job visibility, timely wage payments and limited access to social security.

Under the Code on Wages, 2019, there are provisions for fixation and payment of minimum wages and equal remuneration, its payment and bonus.
