

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1377  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**PROMOTING WOMEN EMPLOYMENT**

**1377. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that a significant number of women are being classified as 'employed' even when they are engaged in unpaid or informal household-based work;**
- (b) the criteria adopted by Government to define 'employment' in such cases and whether unpaid labour is being inaccurately counted as gainful employment;**
- (c) whether data indicates a rise in unpaid labour among women in recent years, particularly in rural areas and if so, the reasons for this disturbing trend; and**
- (d) the reasons for persistent long-term decline in women's labour force participation, despite various Government schemes claiming to promote women employment?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d): The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18.**

**As per the latest Annual PLFS, workers (or employed) are persons who were engaged in any economic activity, resulting in production of goods and services that add value to national product for the employment and unemployment survey.**

**As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for women of age 15 years and above has increased from 22.0% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24. Also, WPR in rural areas for women has increased from 23.7% to 46.5% and in urban areas from 18.2% to 26.0% during the same period.**

**Also, as per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for women of age 15 years and above has increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24. The above data indicates that both the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment and Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased over the period.**

**\*\*\*\*\***