

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025**

WELLBEING OF GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

608. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) the latest estimate of gig and platform workers currently in the country;**
- (b) whether Government acknowledges that the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025 does not statistically identify gig and platform workers;**
- (c) if so, the details of potential data gaps and exclusions from welfare schemes emerging from the same; and**
- (d) whether there is an intent to update the PLFS or introduce a new National survey in line with the legal definitions under the Code on Social Security, 2020?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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.

Since its launch in 2017, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been the primary source of statistics on labour force, activity participation of the population and structure of employment and unemployment in the country.

Based on the information collected in PLFS, labour force indicators, viz., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of

Contd..2/-

workers by status in employment (self-employed, regular wage /salaried, casual labour), by industry (as per National Industrial Classification (NIC)) and occupation (National Classification of Occupation (NCO)) of work etc. are brought out through the PLFS publications.

The current PLFS schedule is not specifically designed to identify individuals engaged as ‘gig workers’. However, all market activities, i.e., activities performed for pay or profit which result in the production of goods and services for exchange, are included under the domain of economic activity considered in PLFS. The activity status of a person who is found to be working or being engaged in economic activity during a specified reference period is associated with employment in PLFS. Hence, even the persons engaged as ‘gig workers’ for pay & profit are covered in PLFS.

As per the Code on Social Security, 2020 gig worker has been defined as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship. Also, platform worker means a person engaged in a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.

*** * * * ***