

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*66**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH FEBRUARY, 2026

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

***66. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that high unemployment rate prevails in the country and the employability of youth is very low;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether Government proposes to take steps to resolve the high unemployment rate particularly among educated youth;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *66 DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026 BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN, M.P. REGARDING “UNEMPLOYMENT RATE”

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

As per the latest Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above has decreased from 6.0% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24 and the estimated UR for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 17.8% to 10.2% during the same period.

Also, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in the country has increased from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 58.2% in 2023-24 in the country and the estimated WPR for youth of age 15-29 years has increased from 31.4% to 41.7% during the same period.

Further, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years of different general education level during 2017-18 and 2023-24 is as follows:

Unemployment Rate (in %)		
General Education Level	2017-18	2023-24
Literate & Upto Primary	8.3	2.6
Middle	13.7	4.2
Secondary	14.4	4.9
Higher Secondary	21.1	8.8
Secondary & above	25.4	15.4

Source: PLFS, MoSPI

The above data shows that the Unemployment Rate for different general education level has also decreased over the years. State/UT-wise information is available in the PLFS reports which may be seen at the website of MoSPI at <https://www.mospi.gov.in/publications-reports> .

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

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated 'FutureSkills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

Government is implementing Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme named as the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. The scheme with an outlay of Rs 99,446 Crore aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years.

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, skill/training programmes etc. through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in].
