

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 107
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026**

ESTIMATED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

107. SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA:

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

- (a) the estimated unemployment rate for the year 2025-26 based on the data source on employment and unemployment, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey;**
- (b) the details of benefit of unorganised workers registering with the e-Shram portal;**
- (c) the measures being taken by Government to regularise or structure gig workers; and**
- (d) the number of unemployed youth in the country and the number of jobs created since 2023?**

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 available 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. Further, the estimated Unemployment Rate on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years and above has decreased from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24.

Also, as per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in the country was increased from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 58.2% in 2023-24. Further, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for youth of age 15-29 years has increased from 31.4% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched eShram portal (eshram.gov.in) on 26th August 2021 for creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) seeded with Aadhaar. eShram portal is meant to register and support the unorganised workers by providing them a Universal Account Number (UAN) on a self-declaration basis. In keeping with the vision of the Budget Announcement on developing eShram as a One-Stop-Solution for unorganized workers to have access to various social security schemes, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the eShram-“One-Stop-Solution” on 21st October 2024.

So far, fourteen (14) schemes of different Central Ministries/ Departments have already been integrated/ mapped with the eShram to extend benefits and access to social security, insurance or skilled development programmes to e-shram card holders including Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandna Yojana (PMMVY), etc.

Apart from the above, eShram has linkages with National Career Service (NCS) for Job Opportunities, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for Skill Development and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) for Pension and convergance portal of MoHUA. For the first time, the definition of ‘gig workers’ and ‘platform workers’ and provisions related to the same have been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has come into force on 21.11.2025.

The Code provides for framing of suitable welfare schemes for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The Code provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance these welfare schemes.
