

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2026**

MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT

2338. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) whether unemployment rate in India has risen to 5 per cent among youth aged fifteen years and above during January, 2026, as per Government's survey released on 16th February, 2026;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;**
- (c) whether Government is aware that almost every household has an unemployed youth aged 18 to 32 years in urban and rural areas;**
- (d) if so, the methodology being used to measure unemployment which restricts it upto 4 to 5 per cent;**
- (e) whether Government would revise its methodology to measure unemployment as the same is unrealistic and shows reduced unemployment; and**
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): 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.

Also, MoSPI has revamped PLFS from January 2025. The PLFS has been conducted on annual basis since 2017 and with quarterly urban estimates from 2018. Additionally, monthly as well as quarterly rural estimates are released by MoSPI since January, 2025. Changes are expected in the monthly PLFS ratios due to increased frequency and seasonal changes but do not necessarily reflect secular trends. Detailed methodology is available in the PLFS reports which may be seen at the website of MoSPI at <https://www.mospi.gov.in/publications-reports> .

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 in the country. Also, the UR on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 17.8% to 10.2% during the same period.

Further, the UR on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 16.6% in 2017-18 to 8.5% in 2023-24 in the rural areas and from 20.6% to 14.7% during the same period in the urban areas of the country.
