GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 92
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

SAFEGUARDING HUMAN EMPLOYMENT

92.   SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

(a) whether Government monitors reports from international executive surveys indicating significant workforce reductions across large-scale enterprises attributable to deployment of computer agents replacing human workers;

(b) if so, the details of Government's analysis pertaining to rising unemployment levels and slowing hiring rates observed across various industries; and

(c) the comprehensive actions proposed by Government to promote critical thinking and communication skills so as to safeguard human employment against machine replacement?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June every year. As per the data available in 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% during 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24. Also, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above has increased from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 58.2% in 2023-24.

Artificial intelligence, including the deployment of computer agents, is an emerging trend shaping work processes across the globe, with its impact on employment differing across sectors and economies. Alongside changes in certain job roles, AI also presents opportunities for employment generation in new and evolving areas such as data science, data curation etc.

The Government continues to focus on skill development, re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives, and policies that facilitate technology adoption alongside employment generation and worker welfare.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology-(MeitY) has initiated 'Future Skills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence. Under this programme so far, 18.56 Lakh+ candidates have signed-up on the Future Skills PRIME Portal, out of which, 3.37 Lakhs+ candidates have completed their course.

In addition, under the Scheme of Centers of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence implemented by MeitY in partnership with NASSCOM, Startups are supported for developing AI based tools and applications that are of use for manufacturing companies. Several such solutions have been deployed by companies in manufacturing sector.

Besides, National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has implemented 'YUVAI: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI'-A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme provides a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aur Nyaay.

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