

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2026
EMPLOYMENT GENERATION BY IT FIRMS**

1333. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

- (a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that automation, artificial intelligence deployment and slower global client spending are resulting in weaker hiring trends and workforce restructuring in major information technology firms;**
- (b) if so, the employment generated by major information technology firms during the last five years;**
- (c) the instances of layoffs, hiring freezes and workforce restructuring reported in the information technology sector during FY26;**
- (d) whether Government proposes worker transition programmes for employees affected by automation-led disruptions; and**
- (e) the measures proposed to protect employment growth in the digital economy?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Official estimates of employment and unemployment in India are derived from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation since 2017–18. The PLFS methodology was revamped with effect from January 2025. The PLFS Annual Report 2025 is the first report in the revised series to present labour market estimates, covering the period from January to December 2025.

As per PLFS reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above has increased from 54.1% in 2022 to 57.4% in 2025 in the country. Also, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) has decreased from 3.6% in 2022 to 3.1% in 2025 in the country. Year-wise and sector-wise information of percentage distribution of workers on usual status by broad industry division is available in the PLFS reports which may be seen at the website of MoSPI at <https://www.mospi.gov.in/publications-reports>.

The KLEMS (K: Capital, L: Labour, E: Energy, M: Materials and S: Services) database published by Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) covers 27 industries comprising of the entire Indian economy and provides employment estimates across 27 industries. As per the latest data, total estimated employment in the country has increased to 64.33 crores (Provisional) during 2023-24 as compared to 47.15 crores during 2014-15, which indicates a growth of 36.44% during the period.

India's AI policy is based on Government's vision of democratizing technology. It is aimed at creating economic opportunities and employment for youth, while addressing risks associated with AI.

India's AI strategy builds on India's vibrant IT sector with annual revenue of 300 billion dollars and 60 Lakh strong workforce. India AI Mission has seven pillars including development of AI models, applications, datasets, talent development and affordable compute.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may result in automating some routine jobs but will also result in job creation in various fields. This will require reskilling and upskilling, for which various initiatives have been undertaken by the Government through multiple national programmes that support workforce transition, redeployment, and preparedness for emerging job roles.

Government is consciously aware of the technology and knowledge-based infrastructure, an important factor for employment opportunities in rural and semi-urban areas. To enable this Government has taken various measures for capacity building.

- i. FutureSkills Prime is a collaborative initiative of Government of India and NASSCOM. It provides skilling, reskilling, and upskilling in emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, Internet of Things (IoTs), Cyber Security, Blockchain, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), etc. Under the programme, so far, more than 34 lakh candidates have registered on the portal, out of which there have been 23 lakh+ candidates enrolled/trained in various courses.**
- ii. National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) provides digital literacy courses such as Awareness in Computer Concept (ACC), Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) etc. It has trained 43 lakh+ candidates under various courses, including digital literacy and cyber security awareness in last 05 years.**

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.
