

LOK SABHA

Unstarred Question No. 1784

TO BE ANSWERED ON NOVEMBER 25, 2016 / Agrahayana 4, 1938 (Saka)

Jobs Threatened by Automation

QUESTION

1784. SHRI KAMAL NATH :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of World Bank research that the proportion of jobs threatened by automation in India is 69 percent and the technology could fundamentally disrupt the pattern of traditional path;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the sectors likely to be hit hard by automation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):

(a): Yes Sir. According to the World Development Report, 2016 of World Bank Group titled 'Digital Dividends', the unadjusted estimated share of employment that is susceptible to automation for India is around 69%. The estimated share of employment adjusted for technological feasibility and adoption time lags is 42.58%.

(b), (c) and (d): The World Development Report, 2016 interalia also states that "Yet, even if technologically feasible, large-scale net job destruction due to

automation should not be a concern for most developing countries in the short term." The Government is also of a similar view.

Even in medium to long term, growth of Indian economy of over 7% and steps being taken to enhance the growth momentum will result in further creation of new job opportunities and absorption of replaced labour, if any.

Furthermore, employment generation has been one of the most important priorities of the Government. Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations.

In order to improve the employability of youth, around 20 ministries run skill development schemes across 70 sectors.

In addition, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been established to coordinate the skill development efforts across the country, removal of disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework, skill upgradation, building of new skills etc.

Government bodies like National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and the Sector Skills Council (SSC) address the present and the future requirements of identifying the unique job roles and the skills require for the same.

Moreover, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector in the economy, fast-tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like PM's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) run by Ministry of Rural Development and DeenDayalAntyodayaYojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation etc.
