

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2484
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2023
EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN WORKFORCE**

2484. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD :

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to address unemployment among Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) during the year 2022-2023;**
- (b) the number of permanent employment opportunities created for SC, ST, OBC and EWS communities and the number of posts remaining vacant as of now;**
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to expedite the recruitment process;**
- (d) whether the Government has launched any awareness campaign about the rights and opportunities available for SC and ST communities; and**
- (e) the steps taken to ensure their equal participation in the workforce?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (e): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of the next year.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons, including SC, ST, OBC and EWS, of age 15 years and above in the country during last three years are as follows:

Year	Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in%	Unemployment Rate (UR) in %
2020-21	52.6	4.2
2021-22	52.9	4.1
2022-23	56.0	3.2

Source: PLFS, MoSPI

The above data indicates that the Worker Population Ratio, indicating employment, has increasing trend and the unemployment rate has decreasing trend in the country.

The employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment, including the persons from SC, ST, OBC and EWS, in the country.

Investments in Infrastructure and productive capacity have a large multiplier impact on growth and employment. The budget of 2023-24 proposed to increase capital investment outlay steeply for the third year in a row by 33 per cent to Rs 10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP. This substantial increase in recent years is central to the government's efforts to enhance growth potential and job creation.

The Government of India has announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid 19. Under this package, the Government has provided fiscal stimulus of more than Rupees Twenty-Seven lakh crore. This package comprises of various long-term schemes/ programmes/ policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was 31.03.2022. Since inception of the scheme, till 23.09.2023, benefits have been provided to 60.47 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme.

The Government is implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) since June 01, 2020 to facilitate collateral free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. As on 23.11.2023, 78.08 lakh loans have been sanctioned under the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched by the Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY, collateral free loans up to Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. As on 17.11.2023, more than 44.41 crore loan accounts sanctioned under the scheme.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is being implemented by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, for a period of 5 years starting from 2021-22 which have potential for creating 60 lakh new jobs.

PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines, namely, Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure. This approach is powered by Clean Energy and Sabka Prayas leading to huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

The Government of India is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. for employment generation. The Government is implementing a programme for skilling of rural youth for entrepreneurship development through Rural Self-Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs). Further, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to enhance the employability of youth.

Besides these initiatives, various flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Digital India, Housing for All etc. are also oriented towards generating employment opportunities.

All these initiatives are expected to collectively generate employment in the medium to long term through multiplier-effects.

Filling up of vacant posts in various Ministries/ Departments is a continuous process and efforts are made to fill up the vacancies as per the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules.

Instructions have been issued by Department of Personnel and Training to all Ministries/Departments of the Central Government to constitute an In-House Committee for identification of backlog reserved vacancies, to study the root cause of such vacancies, to initiate measures to remove the factors causing such vacancies and to fill them up through special recruitment drives. Implementation of the instructions on reservation by Ministries/Departments is followed up from time to time and handholding workshops are also organised.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated an umbrella scheme " Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)" which aims at economic, educational and social empowerment of its target groups.

National Career Service Centres for SC/STs are engaged in enhancing the employability of SC/ST jobseekers. These Centres conduct outreach activities for wider publicity and creating awareness among SC/ST population. National Career Service Portal provides variety of employment related services to all categories of jobseekers including SC, ST, OBC and EWS. These services are available at pan India basis. Employment services are also provided through a network of 1005 Employment Exchanges across the country.
