

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.09.2020**

ILO REPORT ON INDIA'S WORKFORCE

**1242. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:**

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

- (a) whether COVID-19 crisis has pushed about 90% of India's workforce of 500 million in the informal sector out of jobs as per a report by ILO;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Ministry has identified the worst affected sectors and regions and outlined policies to mitigate the crisis as the eventual increase in unemployment will substantially depend on policy measures;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government has noticed that a report of ILO that 40 crores of Indian people are being pushed to below poverty line; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (f): ILO's report namely "ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work- Second edition- Updated Estimates and Analysis" (dated 7th April 2020) is available on the website of ILO.

In order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on India's workforce, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and Atmanirbhar Bharat which, inter-alia, include-

- (i) payment of 12% employers' share and 12% employees' share under Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% by the Government of India for six wage months from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having up to 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs.15,000 monthly wage;**

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- (ii) reduction in Provident Fund (PF) contribution from 12% to 10% of wages for the wage months of May, June and July, 2020;**
- (iii) non-refundable COVID advance from the PF by amending the EPF Scheme, 1952; till date, about Rs 39,000 crore have been withdrawn by members of EPFO.**
- (iv) extension in the date of filing of returns;**
- (v) issuing advisory to promptly attend to distress calls of workers /employees and also guide them in temporary shelters;**
- (vi) using Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) cess fund for transfer of around Rs. 5000 crore in the bank accounts of around 1.83 crore construction workers affected by COVID-19 outbreak; and**
- (vii) Advising employers not to terminate workers and not to cut their wages;**
- (viii) The unemployment benefit under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana being implemented by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Ministry of Labour & Employment has been enhanced to 50% from 25% of the average earning, payable for upto 90 days, along with relaxation of eligibility conditions for insured workers who have lost employment due to COVID-19 pandemic. The enhanced benefit is applicable from 24th March 2020 to 31st December 2020.**

Government has taken initiatives for creating jobs at local levels and supporting migrant workers through Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan. Atmanirbhar Bharat is based on Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand to create jobs for the youth. The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan involves intensified and focussed implementation of 25 target driven works to provide employment and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 districts of 6 states with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore to be implemented in a mission mode campaign in 125 days.

Government has also launched PM SVANidhi Scheme to facilitate collateral free working capital loan of upto Rs. 10,000 of one year tenure, to approximately 50 lakh street vendors, to resume their businesses. Reserve Bank of India and the Government have also introduced various measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to sustain the market economy and to raise the level of employment.