

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2195  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021**

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOB LOSS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR**

**2195. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to address the issues of rising unemployment and job loss in the unorganised sector due to COVID-19 pandemic;**
- (b) if so, the details of the actions taken in this regard;**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the labourers working in the plantation sector in the country;**
- (d) whether the Government has the details of financial assistance/other support to plantation labourers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof; State/UT-wise?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): Government of India has taken several initiatives to address the issues of unorganised workers arising due to COVID-19 pandemic. The details are listed at Annexure A.**

**(c) to (e): Further, the Government has also taken several measures to protect the interest of labourers working in the plantation sector which are given at Annexure B.**

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## Annexure A

ANNEXURE REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2195 FOR 02.08.2021 REGARDING “UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOB LOSS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR” RASIED BY ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE

Steps taken to address the issues of unorganised workers arising due to COVID-19 pandemic:-

(i) Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been launched w.e.f. 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of employment.

(ii) PM- SVANidhi Scheme has facilitated collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to help them resume their businesses during the post Covid period.

(iii) The State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards have disbursed around Rs. 5618 crores to 1.83 crore BoCW workers during first wave of Covid-19 and during second wave, around Rs. 1795 crore have been disbursed to 1.23 crore BoCW workers.

(iv) Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the wage has been increased from Rs. 182.00 to Rs. 202.00 per day with effect from 01.04.2020. During the current financial year, a total of 120.49 crore person days have been generated.

(v) Government under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA), has taken various initiatives to boost rural infrastructure and rural economy to provide local employment opportunities particularly to the migrant returnees. PMGKRA covered 116 districts of 6 States in a mission mode campaign of 125 days.

(vi) PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana- Additional allocation of food grain @ 5 kg per person per month free of cost was provided to all beneficiaries covered under the targeted public distribution system. The scheme has been extended for the period April 2021 to November 2021.

(vii) Limit of collateral free lending was increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs for women organised through 63 lakhs Self Help Groups (SHGs) who support 6.85 crore households.

(viii) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is being implemented by the Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. In addition, to enhance employment generation, Government is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and through public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), respectively.

(ix) RBI and Government of India have undertaken several measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to expand market activities and raise the level of employment.

**Annexure B**

ANNEXURE REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2195 FOR 02.08.2021 REGARDING “UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOB LOSS IN UNORGANISED SECTOR” RASIED BY ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE.

Measures taken to protect the interest of labourers working in the plantation sector:-

(i) Tea Board extended financial assistance worth Rs. 19.09 crores to 28898 to the workers of tea gardens through its HRD components under the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” that was implemented during the MTF period 2017-2020 which was extended till 31.03.2021. Keeping in mind the distress of the workers of tea plantation, the Tea Board has disbursed some amounts under its HRD scheme including Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) & Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP) scheme to different tea growing states the details of which are as under:

Financial assistance & other support under HRD component(including SC & ST growers), given to Plantations labourers during Covid 19 Pandemic through educational stipend, Nehru award, Books & School uniform, Bharat Scout & guide trainings etc.								
Year	2019-20 (for the month of March, 2020)		2020-21		2021-22 ( till 30-06-21)		Total	
state	Fund Utilised (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Fund Utilised (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Fund Utilised (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of beneficiaries	Fund Utilised (Rs. In Lakh)	No. of beneficiaries
Assam	26.78	94	32.59	426	3.12	36	62.49	556
Tripura	0.93	16	0	0	0	0	0.93	16
West Bengal	127.42	1352	91.10	732	75.33	575	293.85	2659
Tamilnadu	84.19	439	29.27	181	13.53	82	126.99	702
Kerala	63.17	323	41.72	218	4.51	25	109.4	566
Karnataka	0	0	0.2	1	0	0	0.2	1
Himachal Pradesh	0.89	10	0.548	3	1.457	13	2.895	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>303.38</b>	<b>2234</b>	<b>195.428</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>97.947</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>596.755</b>	<b>4526</b>

(ii) Spices Board's scheme for Plantation Labour Welfare in the Cardamom growing states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, West Bengal (Darjeeling area) and North Eastern Region has been approved by the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the scheme during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a total outlay of Rs 50 lakhs. The scheme provides for giving stipend to the children (students) of the cardamom plantation labourers so as to help in providing better working conditions. Also under the scheme amenities and incentives are provided for workers of small & large cardamom plantations. The financial assistance for the period 2021-26 is provided to the children of plantation labourers towards tuition fee and hostel charges subject to maximum of Rs. 25000/- per student per annum for pursuing regular full time course.

(iii) Rubber Board implements various labour welfare schemes for the labourers and their children in the rubber plantation sector. During 2020-21, Rs. 2.98 crore was distributed for labour welfare measures to labourers in the unorganised rubber plantation sector.

(iv) The benefits of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) was extended to the labourers working in coffee plantation with Food Security and Direct Benefit Transfer. This also had a salient feature of EPF benefit of reimbursing both employees and employer's contribution of PF amount to those establishments having less than 100 employees and 90% of those employees earning less than Rs. 15,000/- per month. The benefit was given for three months from June to August 2020 under PMGKY.

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