

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE AND LIVELIHOOD FOR URBAN POOR

1. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) the level of year-wise unemployment in the country during the last five years;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to start any scheme to ensure wages, employment guarantee and livelihood for urban poor in the wake of COVID pandemic; and**
- (c) the total number of “Atal Pension Yojana” accounts opened in West Bengal, particularly in the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong along with the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The data on employment/ unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) since 2017-18. The estimated Unemployment Rate(UR) for persons of 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are 6.0%, 5.8% and 4.8% respectively.

(b): Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs is implementing a Centrally-sponsored Scheme viz. the “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)” to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities. The Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P) component of the Mission aims to provide skills to the urban poor to increase their income through structured and market-oriented certified courses that can provide wage employment and/or self-employment opportunities which will eventually lead to better living standards and alleviation of urban poverty on a sustainable basis.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) Scheme has been launched on 01.10.2021 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic. This scheme being implemented through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSME and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, the Government of India is bearing both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by 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.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood and to meet their employment as well as self employment requirement.

Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Housing for All, Infrastructure development and Industrial corridors and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme are oriented to generate productive employment opportunities.

(c): As on 31.10.2021, the total number of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) enrolments registered in West Bengal is 2,802,990. Further, in districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, the number of enrolments registered under APY is 60,963 and 7,658 respectively, as on 31.10.2021.