

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 56
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021**

LAY-OFFS OF EMPLOYEES OF MNCS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

56. DR. A. CHALLAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether there were random lay-offs of employees of the MNCs and private entities in the country since COVID-19 period;**
- (b) if so, the monthly report and data on the suspension and termination of staff during the COVID-19 period, i.e. from April 2020 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the action taken by the Government with the agencies to continue their staff and thereby their facilities thereof; and**
- (d) the reaction of the agencies thereto?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): To deal with complaints/ distress calls arising during COVID-19 pandemic by workers in the Central Sphere, 20 region wise control rooms across the country were set up under the supervision of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). As per the information available with the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) under Ministry of Labour and Employment, a total of 1999 disputes related to termination in Central sphere were resolved at complaint stage during COVID-19 period. Further, 4,337 workers were reinstated and 72 workers were duly compensated as per the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 during the same period by the interventions of various regional offices of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

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(c) & (d): Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) for employers for prevention of disruption in employment of low wage earning EPF members, by way of payment of employee's and employer's share of EPF contributions (24% of wages) by Central Government. The scheme covers all the establishments having up to 100 workers and 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15,000 monthly wage. For the wage period from March, 2020 to Aug, 2020, the scheme has helped 2.63 Lakh establishments by incentivising them to retain 38.91 lakhs low wage earning EPF members. Benefits amounting to Rs.2567.19 crore were credited during the period.

On 12.11.2020, the Central Government launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana from 01.10.2020 to incentivize employment generation in EPFO registered establishments during COVID-19 Recovery phase by payment of both employees & employer's contributions i.e. 24% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing up to 1000 employees and only employee's EPF contributions i.e. 12% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employees. The new employees are those joining EPFO covered establishments from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2022 with monthly wage less than Rs.15000/- & includes both the first time employees in EPFO registered establishments and those EPF members who lost job during the pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020.

Further, Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rs. Twenty seven lakh crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Financial Package.

Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched on June 01, 2020 to provide working capital loan to Street Vendors, vending in urban areas, to resume their businesses, which were hurt adversely due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

:: 3 ::

Government had launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) of 125 days on 20th June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected persons including youth in rural areas, in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The unemployment benefit under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana being implemented by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been enhanced to 50% from 25% of the average wage, payable upto 90 days, alongwith relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit.

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, RBI and Government of India have introduced measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to sustain the market economy and raise the level of employment.

The flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, 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 and sustainable employment opportunities.
