

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 3815**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022

**RESTORATION OF WORKFORCE BALANCE**

3815. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of many working women having dropped out of the labour force over the past two years as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government is considering a strategy to work towards restoring workforce balance and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether many children have also dropped out of schools on account of the conditions created by the pandemic;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is exploring alternative modes of learning, along with traditional methods to fill learning gaps and if so, the framework being formulated to successfully integrate these children into the formal education system at a later stage;
- (d) whether NFHS-5 has recorded worsening of anaemic levels in under-5 children and if so, whether Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) provides for local level intervention in this regard; and
- (e) the details of measures outlined under AMB to induce behavioural change among people so that they shift towards a diet rich in iron?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Labour Bureau has been entrusted with the task of conducting the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) as a component of All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES) that was also designed to collect the information on the Covid-19 pandemic impact on the operational status and employment status of the establishments in the selected 9 sectors namely (i) manufacturing, (ii) construction (iii) trade (iv) transport (v) education (vi) health (vii) accommodation and restaurants (viii) IT / BPOs and (ix) financial services. As per reported data, there were a total of 90 Lakh female employees prior to lockdown (before 25th March, 2020) which reduced to 83.3 lakh as on 1st July, 2020. However, as reported in 2nd Quarterly Employment Survey, 2021, number of female employees as on 01.07.2021 has been reported as 32.1% of the total, i.e. approximately 99.71 lakh, well above the number reported prior to lockdown and hence indicates that the impact during initial phase of pandemic was temporary and has no major impact on overall employment of women.

The Government has taken several initiatives to support and protect the interest of women entrepreneurs and MSME through stimulus given under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Packages to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The packages

comprise of schemes having impact across various sectors of the economy. The review of the progress made in implementation of the stimulus package announced under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Packages is done regularly.

Further, to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers, including women migrant workers, returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Government of India has launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) on 20.06.2020. Government of India under PM-SVANidhi Scheme has facilitated collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to resume their businesses. Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Government of India has contributed both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totaling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August, 2020 for the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs.15000/-. 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, along with relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit.

In order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. Government is implementing National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service where a variety of employment related services like job search, job matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses etc. are being provided under the NCS Project on a common platform with efficient use of information technology. In order to promote women empowerment, NCS provides various opportunities and features specifically focused for women candidates to encourage skilling and employment amongst females.

Further, on 26.08.2021, the Ministry of Labour & Employment launched e-SHRAM portal with an objective to create National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) to facilitate delivery of Social Security Schemes/ Welfare Schemes of the Central /State Governments to the workers of informal/ unorganised sector.

(b) & (c): Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the schools come under the purview of the respective State Governments and UT Administrations.

The Government, in order to prevent drop outs and to check lower enrollments and loss of learning, has issued guidelines on 13th July, 2020 for identification, smooth admission process and continued education of migrant children.

Further, to ensure that children have access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education in the country, the Government has shared guidelines dated 7th January, 2021 with all States & UTs which, among others, include identification of out of school children from age 6-18 years, enrollment drives and awareness generation, student support while schools are closed, continued education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN), student support on school reopening and capacity building of Teachers.

Also, a comprehensive Covid Action Plan has been shared with the States and UTs on 4th May 2021, outlining the role of local bodies, formation of nodal group at village/ town level, conducting door-to-door/ helpdesk-based/ App-based survey to identify out of school children, their mainstreaming and resource sharing.

The Government has also developed an online module for compiling the data of Out of School Children (OoSC) identified by each State/ UT and their mapping with Special Training Centres (STC) on the PRABANDH Portal (<http://samagrashiksha.in>). The concerned State/ UT validates the child-wise information of the identified OoSC and STC uploaded by the concerned Block Resource Centre of the State for monitoring the progress of mainstreaming of OoSC.

Further, during the pandemic, the Government has taken various steps for providing continued access to education, which are available to each category of students irrespective of their region or economic standard. A comprehensive initiative called PM e-Vidya has been started which aims to unify all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education. The initiative includes all forms of digital modes to provide wide access - DIKSHA (online), SWAYAM (online), SWAYAM PRABHA (TV), other TV Channels including use of Doordarshan and AIR Networks. Further, an Alternate Academic Calendar has been prepared for learning solutions for grade 1 to 12 for both children with and without device. Also, PRAGYATA guidelines were issued to States/UTs to facilitate continued education through various modes. The guidelines inter-alia, include situation where internet connectivity is not available or available with very less bandwidth, resources are shared through various platforms like television, radio etc. that do not depend on internet.

Also, to bridge the learning gaps and to ensure continuity of education, the Government has shared a comprehensive Learning Recovery Plan with all the states and Union Territories on 01.02.2022 describing the actions/ activities to be undertaken by all the stakeholders, indicative annual calendar of activities, existing interventions which can be utilized and additional support with funds as one time measure.

(d) & (e): The prevalence of anaemia has increased from 58.6 percent (NFHS 4) to 67.1 percent in children (6-59 months) as per the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5). Under Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy, bi-weekly dose of Iron Folic acid (IFA) syrup is provided to under-five children. The ASHA at the village level is incentivized for the purpose of administration of IFA syrup to under-five children of her village.

Further, intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign (Solid Body, Smart Mind) has been outlined under AMB to induce behavioural change among people by addressing key behaviours like compliance to Iron Folic Acid supplements and de-worming, appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and increased intake of iron-rich, protein-rich and vitamin C-rich foods through dietary diversification and food fortification. The other activities for behaviour change include sensitization meetings for various stake holders including Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). A comprehensive communication package has been designed including interpersonal communication aids like posters, dialogue cards, job aids anemia playing cards, badges etc. as well as messages for use in mass media.

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