

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1184
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2022

JOB LOSS IN RURAL SECTOR

1184. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any assessment of job loss and unemployment in rural sector of the country after the onset of covid pandemic in March, 2020, if so the details thereof; and**
- (b) the details of measures taken by the Government to address the distress in rural employment sector?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period of PLFS is July to June of next year. As per the available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate(UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above in rural sector of the country was 5.0%, 3.9% and 3.3% during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. This indicates that unemployment rate in rural sector has declining trend.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment in the country. The Government of India has announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid 19. Under this package, the Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rupees Twenty Seven lakh crore. This package comprises of various long term schemes/ programmes/ policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Under MGNREGS wage has been increased to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was 31.03.2022. As on 13.07.2022 benefits have been provided to 59.54 lakh beneficiaries.

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 Abhiyaan has achieved an employment generation of 50.78 crore person days with a total expenditure of Rs. 39,293 crore.

The Government has implemented a programme for skilling of rural youth for entrepreneurship development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), a placement linked skill development programme for wage employment.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a major credit-linked subsidy programme launched by the Government, aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of microenterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched by the Government 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. Upto 08.07.2022, 35.94 crore loans were sanctioned under the scheme.

Further, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to enhance the employability of youth.

Besides these initiatives, various flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Digital India, Housing for All etc. are also oriented towards generating employment opportunities.
