

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 8
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH JULY, 2022
JOB LOSS DURING LOCKDOWN

8. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any plan to provide jobs to the employees of companies, factories, industries, malls, shops, etc. media personnel who lost their jobs during the Corona pandemic and nationwide lockdown and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any plan to implement a new law for providing protection to such employees and to provide any kind of financial assistance to them; and**
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any law in respect of such employees and labourers who have not yet received wages in full and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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 Rs. 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.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been 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. Benefits have been provided to 59.53 lakh beneficiaries through 1.50 lakh establishments in till 10.07.2022.

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.

Budget 2021-22 launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, for a period of 5 years starting from 2021-22. All these initiatives are expected to collectively generate employment and boost output in the medium to long term through multiplier-effects.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is being implemented 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.

Besides these initiatives, various flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Start-up India, Digital India, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. are also oriented towards generating employment opportunities.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, notified on 29th September, 2020 envisages that at the time of retrenchment, the workers will be paid compensation which shall be equivalent to fifteen days' average pay, or average pay of such days as may be notified by the appropriate Government for every completed year of continuous service. In addition, the Code also sets up a re-skilling fund for training of retrenched workers. The fund shall consist of the contribution of the employer of an amount equal to fifteen days' wages last drawn by the worker immediately before the retrenchment or such other number of days, as may be notified by the Central Government and such other sources as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government. The fund shall be utilised by crediting fifteen days' wages last drawn by the worker to his account who is retrenched, within forty-five days of the retrenchment as may be prescribed.

The Code on Wages, 2019 mandates the Central Government to fix floor wage applicable across the Central and the State sphere. The removal of the Schedule for the applicability of the Minimum Wages and removal of the specified industries & ceiling of Rs. 24000/- per month for the payment of wages in the wage code will protect the wages and ensure full payment of wages to employees.
