

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2159
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024**

IMPROVING OF WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS

2159. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of new programmes being introduced by the Government to improve wages and working conditions for agricultural and construction workers across all States and Union Territories specially Haryana State;**
- (b) the details of measures proposed by the Government to address the high unemployment rate across all States and Union Territories, particularly among women and youth and the specific steps being taken for Bhiwani-Mahendergarh in Haryana State;**
- (c) whether the Government plans to implement worker protection laws specifically for the informal sector across all States and Union Territories, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up employment exchanges and skill development centers across all States and Union Territories to connect local workers with suitable job opportunities, if so, the details of timeline for implementation?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (d): Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Central Government and the State Governments, are appropriate Governments, to fix, review and revise the minimum wages of the workers employed in the Scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, the minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments (including agriculture, and construction) in the Central sphere were revised by the Central Government in 2017. Further, in order to take care of the rising prices, the Central Government revises the Variable Dearness Allowance (V.D.A) on basic rates of minimum wages every six months, effective from 1st April and 1st October of every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers.

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The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act (UWSS), 2008 provides for, inter-alia, formulating welfare schemes for unorganised workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection etc. by the Central Government.

The official data source on Employment and Unemployment is Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June every year. As per the data available in latest Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years decreased from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24, and for women (15 years and above) decreased from 5.6% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is a priority of Government and Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes for all including for youth and women. The details of this programme may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/schemes_programmes.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, is implementing the National Career Service (NSC) project to provide a variety of employment related services like job search & matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses etc. through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in]. NSC is envisaged as a one-stop solution for career related services including jobs from private and government sector, information on online and offline job fairs, skill/ training programmes etc.