

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1654  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025  
DECLINE IN ENTRY-LEVEL HIRING**

**1654. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the decline in entry-level hiring (freshers) in the country this year, as reported by various professional services and HR consulting firms;**
- (b) if so, the reasons identified for this decline, including any noted cautious approach by enterprises towards campus recruitment;**
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to address the demand and supply gap in the job market, especially with an increasing number of graduates;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether any initiatives are in place to promote job creation and enhance employability among fresh graduates in light of evolving skill requirements and a global economic slowdown; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through 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 Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years increased from 31.4% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24.**

**As per the data available in latest Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above, who are graduates, increased from 49.7% in 2017-18 to 57.5% in 2023-24.**

**Employment generation coupled with improving employability of all including youth is a priority of Government and is a multi-stakeholder initiative. The various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India like Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology etc. are implementing different employment generation schemes/ programmes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), National Handicrafts Development Programme etc., which, along with increase in capital expenditure, seeks to boost employment creation. The details of various employment generation schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government of India may be seen at [https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes\\_programmes](https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes).**

**Under the Government of India's Skill India Mission (SIM), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) delivers skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country including the State of Maharashtra. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready, equipped with industry relevant skills.**

**The Government has brought in National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which aims to integrate vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with vocational exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality vocational education will be integrated smoothly into higher education.**

**Further, Government has announced in Budget 2024-25, Prime Minister's package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of Rs.2 lakh crores. It includes, the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme announced in Budget 2024-25, with an outlay of Rs 1,07,000 Crores, which aims at job creation and formalization of work force by providing Social Security through EPFO, enhancing employability and incentivizing additional employment generation through incentives to employees and employers.**

**One part of ELI scheme specially focuses on incentivizing employers engaged in manufacturing sector for formalization/creation of jobs. Union Budget 2025-26 also prioritizes employment-led development, with multiple initiatives announced across various sectors.**

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