GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1826 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

SOCIAL SECURITY OF GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS

1826. SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

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

- (a)whether a survey has been conducted or planned to analyse the demographics, income levels, and social security needs of gig and platform workers;
- (b)the details of the measures taken by the Government to ensure fair wages and income stability for gig workers without traditional employment contracts;
- (c)whether the Government has held any consultations with platform companies to encourage contributions to social security benefits, if so, the details thereof;
- (d)the manner in which the Government prevents discrimination and ensures fair treatment, especially for women and persons with disabilities; and
- (e)the details of partnerships with financial institutions to provide loans and credit facilities to gig workers?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The provisions of social security & welfare for gig and platform workers have been given in the Code on Social Security, 2020, which has been enacted by the Parliament.

As per the Code, the gig workers has been defined as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.

As per NITI Aayog`s report titled "India`s Booming Gig and Platform Economy" published in June 2022, the number or gig workers and platform workers in the country was 7.7 million in 2020-21, which is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30 The Code provides for framing of suitable social security measures for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The Code also provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance the welfare scheme.

Multiple stakeholders consultations including, with platform companies have taken place in the Ministry at different levels to discuss inter-alia social security provisions for gig and platform workers, framing of suitable welfare schemes and financing such schemes through contributions as per the provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020.

An advisory was issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to platform aggregators to register themselves and platform workers engaged with them on the e-Shram portal and subsequently, an Aggregator module was also launched for easy onboarding on the portal. This will facilitate the platform workers to get easy access to the social security benefits.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers of online platforms, the Union Government in its Budget announcement made on 1.2.2025, proposed to register them on e-Shram portal, arrange for their identity cards and provide health care under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) health scheme.

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