

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1229
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th JULY, 2025**

STEPS FOR IMPROVING WORKERS WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

1229. SHRI THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN :

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

- (a) the details of the current unemployment rate in the Country, disaggregated by age group, gender and State- wise along with comparision to pre-pandemic levels;**
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government during the last five years to address the issue of rising youth unemployment including job creation in the formal sector and skilling initiatives;**
- (c) whether any assessment has been made by the Government on the growth of informal and gig economy jobs and if so, the details thereof including the impact on wages, job security and social protection;**
- (d) the details of the measures taken by the Government to strengthen the implementation of the Code on Wages and Code on Social Security across the Country including monitoring mechanisms; and**
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to consider an unemployment allowance or support scheme for youth and if so, the details thereof along with the proposal and its implementation status and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) 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.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above has decreased from 6.0% in 2017-18 to 3.2% in 2023-24. Further, the estimated Unemployment Rate on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years and above has decreased from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24.

Also, 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 has increased from 31.4% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24. Further, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for Women of age 15 years and above has increased from 22.0% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24.

The detailed information disaggregated by age group, gender and State- wise along with comparison to pre-pandemic levels, is available in the PLFS reports which may be seen at https://www.mospi.gov.in/download-reports?main_cat=ODU5&cat=All&sub_category=All

(b) Employment generation coupled with improving employability including youth is a priority of the Government. Accordingly, Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes. These inter-alia include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deen Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), etc. The details of various employment generation schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has been implementing its flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), since 2015 to impart skill development training through Short-Term Training (STT) and up-skilling and re-skilling through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to youth across the country with the to enhance the employability of youth by equipping them with industry relevant skills.

In addition, the Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.

Further, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, is running the National Career Service (NCS) Portal which is a one-stop solution for providing career related services including jobs from private and government sectors, information on online & offline job fairs, job search & matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, skill/training programmes etc. through a digital platform [www.ncs.gov.in].

(c) As per an estimation by NITI Aayog vide its report titled “India’s Booming Gig and Platform Economy” published in June 2022, the number of 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 on Social Security 2020 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.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers on online platforms, the 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.

(d) The Central Government has formulated the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Code on Social Security, 2020 and published the same in the Official Gazette for general information. “Labour” as a subject is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India and the power to make rules under the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Code on Social Security, 2020 have been entrusted to Central Government as well as State Governments. As a step towards implementation of the above-mentioned Codes, the Central Government has pre-published its the draft Rules under both the Codes. As per available information, 34 and 32 States/Union Territories have pre-published the draft Rules under the Code on Wages, 2019, the Code on Social Security, 2020 respectively.

(e) Under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), of Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), unemployment benefit is paid to insured workers who lose their job, as per eligibility. The unemployment benefit under the ABVKY has been enhanced to 50% from 25% of the average daily earning, payable upto 90 days.
