

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025**

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

1626. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) currently captures employment data specific to gig and platform-based workers such as food delivery agents, cab drivers, e-commerce logistics staff and freelance digital workers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any review or expert consultation to assess the statistical gap arising from the growing informalisation and digitalisation of urban employment, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether there are any proposals to revise PLFS survey instruments to distinctly identify platform-mediated, task-based and app-dependent forms of work, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the absence of disaggregated data on such workers has impacted the Government's ability to design targeted social protection and regulation for them, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether the Government is planning to incorporate gig/platform employment into future labour surveys, if so, the details thereof and the timeline fix for the same?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a): National Statistics Office (NSO) under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2017 to estimate various indicators related to employment and unemployment in the country. Based on

the information collected in PLFS, labour force indicators, viz., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of workers by status in employment (self-employed, regular wage / salaried, casual labour), by industry (as per National Industrial Classification (NIC)) and occupation (National Classification of Occupation (NCO)) of work etc. are brought out through the PLFS publications. In PLFS, the persons engaged as 'gig and platform-based workers' are not specifically identified. However, all market activities i.e. activities performed for pay or profit which result in production of goods and services for exchange are included under the domain of economic activity considered in PLFS. The activity situation of a person who is found to be working or being engaged in economic activity during a specified reference period is associated with employment in PLFS. Hence, even the persons engaged as 'gig and platform-based workers' for pay & profit are covered in PLFS.

(b): 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.

(c): The concepts and definitions in PLFS are formulated conforming to various standards and various facets of internationally accepted standards on labour statistics are studied in MoSPI to assess their applicability and relevance in the country context. However, as on date, there is no such proposal of revising PLFS survey instruments to distinctly identify platform-mediated, task-based, and app-dependent forms of work.

(d): For the first time, the definition of 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' and provisions related to the same have been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has been enacted by the Parliament. 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 Government in its Budget Announcement for financial year 2025-26 has announced several key measures for the welfare of Gig workers of online platforms (platform workers) viz. their registration on the e-Shram portal, issuance of identity cards, and extension of health care benefits under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

(e): The feasibility of separately identifying gig/ platform workers in PLFS is presently not under consideration of NSO, MoSPI.