

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1412
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2026**

UNEMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN PUNJAB

1412. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of rising unemployment and underemployment in Punjab particularly among youth and industrial workers;**
- (b) if so, the latest unemployment rate and sector-wise job losses reported in the State;**
- (c) whether any special employment generation or social security schemes have been implemented for Punjab; and**
- (d) if so, the details of beneficiaries covered, funds released and outcomes achieved?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18.

As per the latest 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 and the estimated UR for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 17.8% to 10.2% during the same period. Also, the estimated UR in the State of Punjab for persons of age 15 years and above has decreased from 7.7% to 5.5% & for youth of age 15-29 years has decreased from 21.6% to 18.8% during the same period.

Further, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status in the State of Punjab for persons of age 15 years and above has increased from 42.9% in 2017-18 to 52.7% in 2023-24 and the estimated WPR for youth of age 15-29 years has increased from 31.1% to 37.8% during the same period.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability (including for youth of Punjab) is a priority of the Government. Accordingly, Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes in the country. The details of various employment generation schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Government is also implementing Skill India Mission (SIM) to deliver skill, re-skill and up-skill training through an extensive network of skill development centres/ schools/ colleges /institutes etc. under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country. The SIM aims at enabling youth of India to get future ready, equipped with industry relevant skills.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated 'FutureSkills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched eShram portal (eshram.gov.in) which is a One-Stop-Solution for unorganized workers to have access to various social security schemes, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the eShram- "One-Stop-Solution" on 21st October 2024. eShram- "One-Stop-Solution" entails integration of different social security/ welfare schemes at single portal i.e., eShram. This enables unorganized workers registered on eShram to access social security schemes and see benefits availed by them so far, through eShram. So far, fourteen (14) schemes of different Central Ministries/ Departments have already been integrated/ mapped with the eShram to extend benefits and access to social security, health insurance and accidental claim to eShram cardholders.

The new Labour Codes are aligned to provide social security coverage and employment safety nets with emerging technological and economic realities which includes:

- (i) Universalisation of social security by extending coverage to organized and unorganised workers including gig and platform under the Code on Social Security, 2020, thereby strengthening protection against employment-related vulnerabilities.**
- (ii) Labour protection measures, including re-skilling funds and dispute resolution under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, to facilitate workforce adjustment during structural and technological changes.**
- (iii) Adoption of digital systems, including electronic registration, license, filing of returns and technology-enabled inspections to ensure compliance.**

Government is implementing Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme named as the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. The scheme with an outlay of Rs 99,446 Crore aims to incentivize the creation of more than 3.5 Crore jobs in the country, over a period of 2 years.

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].
