

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3167  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026**

**INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY**

**3167. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted by the Government the unemployment in the country rose in January 2026 in both rural and urban areas and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) whether it is true that the said survey has also revealed lower labour force participation rate as well as workers population ratio across rural and urban areas and if so, the details thereof?**

**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) and (b):Based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the monthly estimates of Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) for the age group 15 years and above at the all-India level for January 2026 as compared to those for December 2025 and November 2025 are presented in Table below:**

**Estimates of labour force indicators (in per cent) in CWS for the age group 15 years and above at the all-India level**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>January 2026</b>		<b>December 2025</b>		<b>November 2025</b>	
	<b>rural</b>	<b>urban</b>	<b>rural</b>	<b>urban</b>	<b>rural</b>	<b>urban</b>
<b>LFPR</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>50.4</b>
<b>WPR</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>47.1</b>
<b>UR</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>

***Source: Monthly Bulletin, PLFS January, 2026***

***Monthly Bulletin, PLFS December, 2025***

***Monthly Bulletin, PLFS November, 2025***

**The decline in LFPR and WPR and rise in UR in January 2026 is primarily rural driven, with seasonal factors and post-harvest slack playing a key role. Many activities like construction, agriculture, allied work, transport, small trade, etc., slow down in winter.**

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