

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026**

WELFARE OF INFORMAL AND GIG WORKERS IN KERALA

343. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

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

- (a)whether the Government has taken any note of the growing shift from formal employment to informal and platform-based work in Kerala, particularly among educated youth and returned migrants and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b)whether any assessment has been conducted on the coverage of workers under social security schemes, including ESI, EPFO, and the e-Shram portal in the country, State/UT-wise with specific reference to Kerala and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c)whether the Government proposes to introduce State-specific interventions to address job insecurity in Kerala including portable social security benefits, unemployment support and skill recertification for workers transitioning between sectors and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d)whether any steps are being considered to ensure labour protections, minimum income safeguards and grievance redressal mechanisms for platform and gig workers in Kerala?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): Employment generation coupled with improving employability is a priority of the Government. Accordingly, Government is implementing various employment generation schemes/ programmes. The details of the major employment generation schemes/programmes implemented by the Government are at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.**

Contd..2/-

The 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].

To enhance the employability, digital and career skills of jobseekers and empower & equip youth with an array of essential employable skills, NCS Portal inter-alia offers online employability enhancement programmes, digital skill enhancement programmes and self-paced career skill programmes. NCS portal is integrated with Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) that is specially designed and developed to skill, reskill and upskill individuals through an online training platform for jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. The integration of NCS Portal with SIDH has paved the way for the skilled jobseekers on SIDH to avail the benefits of NCS Portal and the jobseekers of NCS to avail the skilling services offered by SIDH.

Total number of contributing members in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is 7.78 Crore.

There are 14.91 Crore beneficiaries including 3.84 Crore insured persons under Employees' State Insurance scheme. The field offices identify the uncovered units from the data of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), EPFO and other organisations to cover the unrecoverable units under the ambit of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

Recently, ESIC launched Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) to create awareness about the coverage in ESIC and to provide one-time opportunity to all uncovered employers to register their units under ESIC with the facility of not submitting any previous records, and to register new employees for already covered units.

Contd..3/-

During SPREE, the details of the coverage under State of Kerala up to 24.12.2026 are:

Employer :4310
Employees :200902

The Ministry of Labour and Employment had launched eShram portal on 26.08.2021 for creation of a Comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers including platform workers, migrant workers etc. The eShram portal registers the unorganised workers including gig and platform workers and provides them a Universal Account Number (UAN) on a self-declaration basis. As on 28.01.2026, over 31.48 crore unorganised workers have already been registered on eShram portal. The details of State-wise number of unorganised workers registered on eShram portal enrolled under different social security schemes is annexed.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 has come into force on 21.11.2025 with the objective to consolidate and simplify the existing social security laws into a single framework and to extend social security coverage to all workers, including organized, unorganized, gig, platform, and self-employed workers, by ensuring universal access to social security benefits, promoting portability of benefits across employments and States, enabling the Central and State Governments to frame appropriate schemes, leveraging technology for efficient delivery, and clearly defining the roles of governments, employers, and aggregators in order to provide comprehensive social protection to the workforce in line with evolving labour market conditions.

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. 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 of a Social Security Fund for financing of social security and welfare schemes for gig and platform workers.

The Code has provisions for setting up a toll-free call centre, or helpline or facilitation centres for unorganised, gig, and platform workers by the appropriate Government. These facilities are to disseminate information on available social security schemes, facilitate filing, processing and forwarding of application forms for registration, assist to obtain registration and facilitate the enrolment of the registered unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers in the social security schemes.

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Annexure referred in reply to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 343 for 02.02.2026 regarding “Welfare of Informal and Gig Workers in Kerala”

State/UT-wise details of unorganised workers registered on eShram portal enrolled under different social security schemes as on 27.01.2026.

Sl.N o.	State/Uts	ONORC	PM-SVANIDH I	MGNRE GA	PMAY-G	IGNDP S	IGNWP S	PMAY-U	PMM SY	PMJJBY	PMSBY	PMJAY	PMKISAN	PMMV Y
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	9,350	180	2,191	364	1	5	16	13	4,859	11,716	25,931	1,316	27
2	Andhra Pradesh	54,92,172	1,37,372	34,74,803	61,816	5,110	1,30,314	4,80,588	1,203	11,31,808	31,09,075	75,15,741	10,48,989	48,289
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,20,277	2,532	98,175	7,988	340	1,361	2,197	17	16,142	61,114	48,212	46,127	84
4	Assam	70,99,856	24,977	24,33,229	2,81,048	8,832	29,867	27,881	2,718	3,77,494	16,39,988	41,16,775	10,32,072	1,47,687
5	Bihar	2,69,98,941	86,753	51,04,073	19,31,267	20,866	83,556	45,887	550	21,33,461	89,48,182	2,43,52,485	38,32,574	4,90,564
6	Chandigarh	1,25,167	3,413	2,105	825	27	322	76	-	15,276	49,508	1,07,439	7,866	3,262
7	Chhattisgarh	65,15,437	44,489	37,99,348	5,08,421	12,710	74,971	77,713	178	7,74,111	28,86,076	78,44,126	12,09,886	1,40,607
8	Delhi	22,75,624	92,832	28,548	16,441	1,148	535	3,389	7	2,04,762	8,08,131	4,26,661	1,18,054	57,683
9	Goa	46,876	323	2,187	134	48	601	8	27	8,596	23,756	12,997	2,010	1,165
10	Gujarat	90,08,502	2,29,038	13,36,630	2,51,636	7,580	1,00,363	26,918	93	8,56,368	28,88,094	96,48,461	17,38,643	1,17,336
11	Haryana	44,45,813	77,946	5,36,513	16,836	7,157	23,574	8,858	298	6,04,428	14,64,451	43,24,808	4,26,741	38,043
12	Himachal Pradesh	10,33,668	2,753	7,53,998	9,977	55	1,585	4,094	75	1,47,357	4,33,530	6,41,613	3,54,892	596
13	Jammu And Kashmir	28,21,189	11,145	9,51,267	1,35,891	950	2,463	17,054	411	26,086	1,24,045	34,03,135	4,71,072	55,738
14	Jharkhand	83,19,490	44,770	23,18,048	5,68,277	9,042	49,384	41,458	1,857	11,01,548	37,59,459	52,46,825	12,62,970	1,00,750
15	Karnataka	77,44,456	1,52,971	30,04,200	55,840	10,512	1,09,222	22,730	189	7,39,993	22,68,269	39,97,566	9,73,294	1,97,640
16	Kerala	36,69,058	49,495	12,34,720	10,098	3,907	87,290	43,650	458	2,15,312	11,44,021	22,80,959	10,84,884	58,052
17	Ladakh	26,139	129	13,663	484	7	24	97	24	1,002	3,808	31,615	7,968	556
18	Lakshadweep	1,487	3	70	10	8	2	1	1	178	560	1,850	308	28
19	Madhya Pradesh	1,57,01,449	4,72,091	41,83,220	2,93,914	2,913	9,386	1,86,362	605	14,96,762	64,85,385	1,27,37,279	29,08,465	4,86,037

20	Maharashtra	1,39,94,832	3,18,991	26,75,243	2,21,922	2,443	30,700	35,372	751	15,03,714	50,16,948	1,08,76,049	22,58,235	2,65,640
21	Manipur	4,23,103	4,841	1,98,247	29,014	71	2,069	8,143	216	18,285	80,276	1,94,744	29,530	14,519
22	Meghalaya	2,14,024	19	2,11,017	45,268	236	1,766	738	417	15,855	69,810	1,96,027	76,100	3,957
23	Mizoram	52,320	590	27,062	5,058	29	102	2,490	5	2,029	8,830	49,334	21,158	357
24	Nagaland	2,30,393	1,586	77,629	13,391	20	139	7,541	625	13,780	72,300	1,98,434	89,553	3,687
25	Odisha	1,22,37,510	35,156	28,03,470	11,41,221	33,996	1,59,153	75,568	415	15,79,286	55,38,106	27,002	19,67,756	1,849
26	Puducherry	1,58,666	1,579	30,311	90	181	515	5,259	6,988	11,361	33,281	1,19,355	2,973	1,261
27	Punjab	45,27,787	76,339	7,01,010	16,951	1,022	2,659	14,294	46	4,82,181	15,55,562	30,49,197	2,37,665	1,08,449
28	Rajasthan	1,05,55,516	89,877	48,12,706	4,46,165	5,723	48,082	49,915	3	13,17,827	47,42,729	65,46,447	22,65,724	4,64,371
29	Sikkim	38,025	273	15,707	200	1	3	4	31	5,360	15,207	11,209	5,206	270
30	Tamil Nadu	61,15,357	86,603	35,23,842	2,07,545	7,351	57,260	45,012	1,649	6,14,956	19,36,258	45,83,677	5,48,163	41,923
31	Telangana	31,51,597	1,39,837	16,78,141	689	5,423	22,990	807	56	4,35,452	12,56,343	22,47,439	7,11,342	819
32	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	54,422	705	1,578	1,075	10	55	148	3	7,013	16,999	51,812	4,366	123
33	Tripura	6,57,330	2,819	4,92,681	1,55,578	299	1,430	20,504	1,124	89,989	2,25,797	8,22,072	1,11,433	66
34	Uttar Pradesh	6,78,56,430	9,54,658	92,73,867	17,68,140	4,577	44,404	10,90,163	1,622	44,08,168	1,87,37,113	3,24,06,684	1,20,58,012	2,44,262
35	Uttarakhand	21,26,113	15,186	6,12,046	37,443	370	3,489	14,541	185	1,98,863	8,76,380	27,65,447	3,56,622	58,392
36	West Bengal	1,88,78,776	86,999	54,31,174	15,82,497	14,578	93,515	1,28,707	1,014	19,92,422	88,33,727	96,788	22,69,167	22,261
