

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1057**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

**JOB LOSSES DUE TO SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19**

**1057. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:**

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

- (a) whether Government's assessment of job losses across sectors on account of the second-wave of COVID-19 between March 30 and July 5, 2021;**
- (b) whether Government has formulated targeted income relief measures for unemployed persons affected by such job losses;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) Government's assessment, if any, of number of individuals and families pushed below the poverty line due to COVID-19 second wave and consequent unemployment?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
**(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

**(a) to (d): As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above on usual status in the country to the extent available during 2018-19 and 2019-20 is 5.8% and 4.8% respectively.**

**Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is also publishing monthly payroll data relating to employment in the formal sector. This highlights that cumulative net payroll addition to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscriber base is 77.08 lakh for the year 2020-2021, which is almost at par with previous year (78.58 lakh). It is observed that there is addition in net payroll as represented by EPFO subscriber base in each month of 2020-21 except for the month of April and May 2020.**

**The Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rs Twenty seven lakh crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar financial Package, comprising of various long term schemes/programmes/ policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.**

**Aatmanirbhar Bharat RozgarYojna (ABRY) Scheme has been launched with effect from 1st October 2020 to incentivize creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment. This scheme reduces the financial burden of the employers and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, Government of India is providing for a period of two years both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employer's share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments. The new employees under the scheme include those who lost their jobs during Covid-19 and didn't join in any EPF covered establishment upto 30.09.2020. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary under the scheme has been extended from 30th June, 2021 to 31st March, 2022.**

**Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Government of India has contributed both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totaling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August, 2020 for the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-. This has helped in providing employment in EPFO registered establishments during post Covid period.**

**The unemployment benefit under the Atal BeemitVyakti Kalyan Yojana being implemented by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been enhanced to 50% from 25% of the average earning, payable upto 90 days, alongwith relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit, for insured workers who have lost employment due to COVID-19.**

**PM- SVANidhi Scheme has facilitated collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to help them resume their businesses during the post Covid period.**

**Government has increased MGNREGA wage to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit nearly 13.62 crore families.**

**In addition, RBI and Government of India have introduced measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to sustain the market economy and raise the level of employment.**

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