

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1211**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**1211. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to provide relief to workers who have become unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic in the Country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and**
- (c) the details of the financial help as well as medical help to the workers and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

**(a to c): The Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic followed by lockdowns has affected economies across the globe including India. COVID-19 has resulted in large number of migrant workers going back to their native places. Government of India has announced an economic package of Rs. 20 Lakh crore which inter-alia facilitates creation of employment opportunities in the country. Aatmanirbhar Bharat is based on Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand to create jobs for the youth.**

**Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Government of India is contributing both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-.**

**Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months.**

**Government of India, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA), has taken various initiatives to boost rural infrastructure & rural economy to provide local employment opportunities particularly to the migrant returnees. It covers 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore and is being implemented in a mission mode campaign of 125 days through Ministry of Rural Development.**

**Government of India has launched PM-SVANidhi Scheme to facilitate collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately, 50 lakh street vendors, to resume their businesses.**

**Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers-5000 Cr.**

**Government of India has also taken following measures under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) as follows:**

- Insurance cover of Rs. 50 Lakh under Insurance Scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 in Government Hospitals and Health Care Centres.**
- Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month for three months; the PMGKAY scheme has been extended till the end of November 2020.**
- An ex-gratia of Rs. 500 per month for three months for women Jan Dhan account holders.**
- Increase in MNREGA wage to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.**
- An ex-gratia of Rs. 1,000 to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled.**
- Government has front-loaded Rs. 2,000 paid to farmers in first week of April under PM Kisan Yojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers.**

**The unemployment benefit under the Atal Beemit Vyakti 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. The enhanced benefit and relaxed eligibility conditions are applicable for the period 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020.**

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