

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1223**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**1223. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:**

**SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:**

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

- (a) the policies formulated by the Government to tackle increasing unemployment due to Covid-19 in the country;**
- (b) whether the Government has got the unemployment data and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide any financial assistance to the people rendered unemployed due to Covid-19 and if so, the detail thereof;**
- (d) whether any new step has been taken by the Ministry to provide assistance to the dependents of COVID affected persons and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether any step has been taken to provide support to the affected families under the Employee Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme besides pensionary benefits and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d): The data on employment/unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. As per the results of PLFS conducted during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country is 6.0%, 5.8% and 4.8% respectively.**

**Recently Government has launched All-India Quarterly Establishment Based Employment Survey (AQEES) in April, 2021. As per the result of the first round of Quarterly Employment Survey for the period April to June 2021, employment increased to 3.8 crore in the nine selected sectors of the economy against a total of 2.37 crores in these sectors taken collectively, as reported in the sixth Economic Census (2013-14) reflecting a growth rate of 29%. The most impressive growth of 152 percent has been recorded in the IT/BPO sector, while growth rate in Health is 77 percent, in Education it is 39 percent, in Manufacturing it is 22 percent, in Transport it is 68 percent and in Construction it is 42 percent.**

**COVID-19 pandemic has affected economies across the globe including India. Government has taken several initiatives to address the challenges and threats posed by the pandemic.**

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

**Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched on June 01, 2020 to provide working capital loan to Street Vendors, vending in urban areas, to resume their businesses, which were hurt adversely due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.**

**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 protecting employment in EPFO registered establishments during post Covid period.**

**Government had launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) of 125 days on 20th June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected persons including youth in rural areas, in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.**

**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 wage, payable upto 90 days, alongwith relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit.**

**Government is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and through public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) etc.**

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

**Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is being implemented by the Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities.**

**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.**

**The flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Housing for All and Industrial corridors and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme are oriented to generate productive and sustainable employment opportunities.**

**Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has implemented the special programme for the fresh skilling (Short Term Training (STT) and upskilling (Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of the returnee migrant workers impacted by COVID-19 under its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to support the Garib Kalyan Roazgar Abhiyan (GKRA). This special programme has covered 116 districts of 6 state namely Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. MSDE with the support of District Administration has undertaken skill mapping of the returnee migrants and identified the beneficiaries for the training under PMKVY.**

**The Government has simplified, amalgamated and rationalized the various Central Labour laws into four Labour Codes namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 which would promote investment and setting up of more enterprises thus catalyzing the creation of employment opportunities in the country.**

**(e): Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provides Social Security benefits in the form of Pension and Insurance to dependents of workers who were members of the schemes under the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous (EPF & MP) Act, 1952. Whether the death happened due to Covid- 19 or otherwise, Pension and Insurance benefits (widow/ children/orphan/nominee/parents) were paid to them as per statutory provisions.**

**During the period April, 2020 to October, 2021, relief in the form of Pension and Insurance benefits to dependents widow / children / orphan / nominee / parents) were paid as follows:**

**1.(a) Total number of beneficiaries granted pension due to death of member: 1,55,886**

**(b)Amount of pension paid to such dependents: ₹ 564.72 crores**

**2. (a) Total number of insurance beneficiaries: 72,181**

**(b) Amount of insurance money paid to such dependents: ₹ 2003.87 crores.**

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