

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1277
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

ASSESSMENT OF LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT

1277. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) the level of year-wise unemployment in the country during the last five years ending on 31st March, 2020;**
- (b) whether the Government has made an assessment of the level of unemployment in the country during the period from 1st April, 2020 to 31st August, 2020 and if so, the month-wise details thereof;**
- (c) the measures/steps taken by the Government for the generation of more employment to overcome the slowdown caused by COVID-19 pandemic;**
- (d) whether it is a fact that the unemployment rate has gone up in August, 2020 as rural jobs dipped, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether it is also true that there has been loss of over 12 crores jobs in the country, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) &(b): The quinquennial labour force surveys on employment and unemployment were conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The last such survey was conducted during 2011-12. Now, NSO has switched to the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) which has been initiated from 2017-18. As per the result of Surveys, the estimated unemployment rate on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis for persons of all ages in the country to the extent available is given below:

Survey*	Unemployment Rate
2018-19 (PLFS)	5.8%
2017-18 (PLFS)	6.1%
2011-12 (NSS 68th round)	2.2%

(Note: *For comparability, the results of the PLFS with earlier rounds of NSS surveys need to be understood in the context with which the survey methodology and sample selection has been designed)

(c) to (e): The Corona Virus (COVID-19) 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 has taken initiatives to ensure that country is well prepared to face the challenges and threats posed by Covid-19. 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.

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.

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.
