GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1843 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH AUGUST, 2021

COMPENSATION FOR JOB LOSS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1843. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to provide employment and monetary compensation during the interregnum to those who lost their jobs on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, on the same tune as compensation paid during other natural calamities like earthquake, floods, etc.; and
- (b) the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Government of India has taken a number of initiatives for promoting employment generation and to protect livelihood during the Covid-19 pandemic. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package of more than Rs. 27 lakh crore was launched in phased manner to make the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been launched w.e.f. 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of employment. This scheme being implemented through EPFO seeks to reduce the financial burden of the employers and encourages them to hire more workers. The new employees under the scheme includes those who have lost their employment during Covid-19 pandemic and did not join 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 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-.

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 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.

Government has increased MGNREGA wage to rupees 202 a day from rupees 182 to benefit nearly 13.62 crores families.

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, along with relaxation of eligibility conditions to claim the benefit, for insured workers who have lost employment due to pandemic.
