

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2005
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH JULY, 2019**

HIGHEST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN 47 YEARS

2005. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) the unemployment rate in both rural and urban areas in the country is at its highest since 1972;**
- (b) if so, whether this can be ascribed to the abrupt decision of Government to abolish high denomination currency and unpreparedness and lack of proper implementation of GST; and**
- (c) what steps Government is planning to take to rectify this grave situation of unemployment?**

ANSWER

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

(a): As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during 2017-18, the estimated unemployment rate on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis for persons of all ages in both rural and urban areas in the country since 1972 is given below:

Unemployment Rates (in %) over National Sample Survey(NSS) rounds				
Survey year	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	female
2017-18* (PLFS)	5.8	3.8	7.1	10.8
2011-12 (NSS 68th round)	1.7	1.7	3.0	5.2
2009-10 (NSS 66th round)	1.6	1.6	2.8	5.7
2004-05 (NSS 61st round)	1.6	1.8	3.8	6.9
1999-00 (NSS 55th round)	1.7	1.0	4.5	5.7
1993-94 (NSS 50th round)	1.4	0.9	4.1	6.1
1987-88 (NSS 43rd round)	1.8	2.4	5.2	6.2
1983 (NSS 38th round)	1.4	0.7	5.1	4.9
1977-78 (NSS 32nd round)	1.3	2.0	5.4	12.4
1972-73 (NSS 27th round)	1.2	0.5	4.8	6.0

(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)

(b) & (c): Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Government has taken various steps towards generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast-tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes such as Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has been launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for incentivising employers for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, Government is paying entire employer's contribution (12% or as admissible) towards EPF and EPS for all eligible new employees for all sectors for 3 years.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by 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.

Government has implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project which comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for the job seekers and employers for job-matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content to job seekers.

Start-up India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong ecosystem that is conducive for the growth of start-up businesses, to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Housing for All, Infrastructure development and Industrial corridors have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities. Ministries/ Departments/ States run skill development schemes across various sectors to improve the employability of youth and also facilitate placements. Schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 percent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.
