

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 241
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03RD FEBRUARY, 2021

JOB LOSSES IN PRIVATE SECTOR DUE TO PANDEMIC

241. SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

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

- (a) whether there has been huge job losses around the country in all private sectors due to pandemic;**
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that private jobs do not provide job security and thus lead a working class Man's family in abject poverty and neck deep in loan in times of sudden job loss;**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide job security in private sector; and**
- (d) the details of lessons learnt to protect the working class in private sector from complete financial collapse?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 has taken several initiatives to address 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.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) Scheme has been launched to incentivize creation of new employment alongwith social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic. This scheme being implemented through the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSMEs and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, the Government of India will credit both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers share' (12% of wages)of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.

Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee was 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 and 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.
