

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2021**

INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO COVID CRISIS

2650. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

- (a) whether country is heading towards Cyclical and Structural unemployment simultaneously, due to this COVID crisis;**
- (b) the long term Ministerial plans to generate employment that has been lost due to COVID;**
- (c) whether it is believed that some jobs will be lost forever, due to their style and nature and how the Ministry plan to create accessible, innovative, sustainable and unique jobs; and**
- (d) whether the Ministry is thinking in the direction to develop economic hotspots in rural areas to neutralise reverse migration?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, the estimated Unemployment rate (UR) on usual status for 15 years and above is 6.0%, 5.8% and 4.8%, respectively.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is also publishing monthly payroll data relating to employment in the formal sector. This highlights that cumulative net payroll addition to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscriber base is 77.08 lakh for the year 2020-21, which is almost at par with previous year (78.58 lakh). It is observed that there is addition in net payroll as represented by EPFO subscriber base in each month of 2020-21 except for the month of April and May, 2020.

COVID-19 pandemic followed by lockdowns 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.

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 terminal date for registration of beneficiaries has been extended from 30.06.2021 to 31.03.2022.

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.

Government has launched a flagship initiative, Startup India, for building a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

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 and Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme have the potential 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 Rozgar 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.
