GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2664 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11^{TH} AUGUST, 2021

ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

2664. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of job loss due to financial crisis of industries during COVID pandemic in industrial sector in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of various schemes to provide employment and other forms of assistance to unemployed individuals, including funds allocated and the number of eligible beneficiaries;
- (c) the number of individuals who sought and received Government assistance under these schemes;
- (d) the details of monthly unemployment rate in the country since December, 2019 till present date; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to combat the problem of unemployment in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The data on employment/ unemployment is being collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The annual PLFS report covers the survey period from July to June. The latest available report is for the year 2019-20.

As per the results of annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted during 2018-19 and 2019-20, the estimated unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country is 5.8% and 4.8% respectively and the percentage distribution of workers in usual status by broad industry division in the country to the extent available for the last two years is as under:

Broad industry division as per NIC 2008	2018-19	2019-20
Agriculture	42.5	45.6
Mining & quarrying	0.4	0.3
Manufacturing	12.1	11.2
Electricity, water, etc	0.6	0.6
Construction	12.1	11.6
Trade, hotel & restaurant	12.6	13.2
Transport, storage & communications	5.9	5.6
Other services	13.8	11.9
All	100.0	100.0

The Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than Rs. twenty seven lakh crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar financial Package. Aatmanirbhar Bharat package comprises of 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. The new employees under the scheme includes those who have lost their employment during Covid-19 pandemic and didn't join in 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. As on 26.07.2021, benefit of Rs. 1193.18 crore has been provided to 25.57 lakh employees through 91,129 establishments under the scheme.

Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Government of India has contributed both 12% employer's share and 12% employees'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 upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-. This has helped in providing employment in EPFO registered establishments during post Covid period. Under the PMGKY scheme Rs 2567.66 crore was credited in EPF accounts of 38.82 lakhs eligible employees.

The unemployment benefit under the Atal BeemitVyakti 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.

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 has increased MGNREGA wage to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit nearly 13.62 crore families.

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.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is being implemented by the 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.

Besides above, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and through public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. DeenDayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
