# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3319 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

# **JOB LOSS IN VARIOUS FIELDS DUE TO COVID-19**

# 3319. DR. BANDA PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether Government has any official and authenticated information regarding loss of jobs in various fields in the country during COVID-19;
- (b) whether Government has figures of the badly affected areas due to heavy loss of jobs and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to provide/restore jobs to those who lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof: and
- (d) whether Government proposes to provide financial support to the affected companies so that the jobs lost due to the impact of pandemic may be restored, if so, the details thereof?

### **ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic followed by nationwide lockdown has affected economies across the globe including India. Government has taken several initiatives to address the challenges and threats posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

The Government is providing fiscal stimulus of more than rupees twenty seven lakh crore as part of the Aatmanirbhar financial Package comprises of various long term schemes/ programmes/ policies for making the country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojna (ABRY) Scheme has been launched to incentivize employers for creation of new employment 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 and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, the Government of India is bearing for a period of two years, 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. As on 09.03.2021, 16.49 lakh employees were registered for availing the benefit.

Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Government had 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 upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than Rs. 15000/-. Under the PMGKY scheme Rs 2567.66 crore was credited in EPF accounts of 38.82 lakh eligible employees.

To boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Government had launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) on 20th June 2020 for six states. 50,78,68,671 persondays employment had been generated in six states under the GKRA.

Government has earmarked an additional Rs. 40,000 crore under MGNREGS to generate nearly 300 crore person days in total addressing need for more work including returning migrant workers. MGNREGA wage has been increased to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.

PM-SVANidhi Scheme has facilitated collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- for one-year tenure to street vendors, to resume their businesses.

RBI, inter-alia, has also introduced various measures to infuse liquidity in the economy to stimulate business and investment.

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