

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3450
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2021

RE-EMPLOYMENT TO WORKERS AFTER LOCKDOWN

3450. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KANAKMAL KATARA:

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

- (a) the number of organised/unorganized labourers and workers who lost their employment due to COVID19;**
- (b) the plan of the Government to provide reemployment to the unemployed organised and unorganized labourers and all the workers;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain their actual number and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether there has been an increase in the number of labourers in unorganised sector year to year during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the steps being taken to regulate the unorganised sector and bring these labourers in the ambit of organised sector and the details thereof?**
- (f) the details of the steps taken to create employment opportunities in the unorganised sector and whether survey is being done by the Labour Bureau on quarterly basis; and**
- (g) the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation, welfare and employment of the migrant labourers returned from various States during the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 global pandemic and the details of the steps taken by the Government to identify such migrant labourers and to provide employment to them?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): COVID-19 pandemic has affected all sections of the society including organised/ unorganised workers. Government has taken several initiatives to address the challenges and threats posed by the pandemic. Fiscal stimulus of more than Rs. Twenty seven lakh crore is being provided as part of the Aatmanirbhar financial

Package, comprising 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.

Government had launched the GaribKalyanRojgarAbhiyaan (GKRA) of 125 days on 20th June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected persons including youth in rural areas, in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

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 is 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. DeenDayalUpadhyayaGrameenKaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY), DeendayalAntodayaYojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) etc.

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

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.

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.

(c) to (g): 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). Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been entrusted with the task of conducting the All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES) to capture change in employment in various establishments in the country.

The Ministry is also developing a National Database for Unorganized Workers (NDUW) Portal seeded with Aadhaar for registration of unorganized workers.

The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008, provides for social security to unorganised sector workers through formulation of suitable welfare schemes by Central and State Governments. Accordingly, Central Government has formulated schemes for unorganised workers for providing life and disability cover through Pradhan Mantri JeevanJyotiBimaYojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri SurkshaBimaYojana (PMSBY) launched in 2015, health and maternity benefits through Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY) launched in 2018, and old age protection through pension under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) launched in March, 2019. The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act 2008 which contain several for imparting social security coverage to unorganised sector workers.

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 Abhiyaan (GKRA). This special programme has covered 116 districts of 6 states 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.

Ministry of Labour & Employment had issued Advisory Guidelines to all the States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant workers returning to the destination States

in the backdrop of Covid-19. The Guidelines inter-alia, advised States/UTs to maintain updated data of the migrant workers to facilitate the administration to extend benefits of the welfare schemes of the Government to such workers.

States/UTs were also advised by the Ministry to frame a scheme under Building and other Construction workers (BOCW) Act, 1996 for transfer of funds in the bank account of BOC workers. In response, during first wave of Covid19 pandemic, Rs. 5618 crores were disbursed to 1.83 crore BOCW workers and during second wave, Rs. 1795 crores have been disbursed to 1.23 crore workers.

In addition to above, measures have also been taken by the Government under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to support the poor including migrant workers, through provision of free food grains, gas cylinders free of cost, direct transfer of financial assistance into bank account of the beneficiaries, etc.
