

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.421
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2020
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DURING COVID-19

421. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the last six months the country has recorded an average to over 24 per cent unemployment rate and highest at 27.11 per cent in August 2020;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that joblessness is the most serious concern of the country; and**
- (c) the action proposal of Government and urgent sector-wise revival package to reanimate therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a): Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) on employment and unemployment is conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the PLFS 2018-19, the estimated unemployment rate to the extent available based on such survey for persons of all ages on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis in the country was 5.8%.

(b) & (c): The global spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) 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 initiatives for creating jobs at local levels & supporting migrant workers through Pradhan MantriGaribKalyanYojana (PMGKY), Aatmanirbhar Bharat & Pradhan MantriGaribKalyanRozgarAbhayan (PMGKRA). Aatmanirbhar Bharat is based on Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand to create jobs for the youth. It encompasses an economic package of Rs. 20 Lakh Crores inter-alia facilitating creation of employment opportunities in the country.

Under PMGKY, besides providing food grains, ex-gratia payments directly in the accounts of beneficiaries, EPF contribution for employees working in certain establishments was also made by the Government to support the Industry particularly MSME Sector. Further the wage under MGNREGA has also been increased from Rs 182 per day to Rs 202 which has benefitted about 13.62 Crore families.

Government of India, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA), has taken various initiatives to boost rural infrastructure & 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 has also announced the measures to strengthen Infrastructure Logistics, Capacity Building, Governance and Administrative Reforms for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors.

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 reinstate their businesses.
