

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 336
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH FEBRUARY, 2024
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA**

336. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B. :

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government took a note of the warning issued by the International Labour Organisation about the possible rise in unemployment in the year 2024;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that unemployment rate in the country has widened in recent years;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the real wage growth in India was not at par with other developing nations; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

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

(a) to (d): The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June every year.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for persons of age 15 years and above was 4.2%, 4.1% and 3.2% during 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. The data indicates that the unemployment rate in the country has a declining trend over the years.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS Reports, the average wage/salary earnings during the preceding calendar month by the regular wage/salaried employees in current weekly status (CWS) has increased to Rs. 20,039/- during the period April-June, 2023 as compared to Rs. 16,848/- during the period April-June, 2018.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Under MGNREGS wage has been increased to Rs. 202 a day from Rs. 182 to benefit 13.62 crore families.

Section 3(1) (b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 mandates the Central Government and the State Governments to review the minimum rates of wages so fixed in the Scheduled employments in their respective jurisdiction at intervals not exceeding five years and revise the minimum rates, if necessary. In order to take care of the rising prices, the Central Government revises the basic rates of minimum wages and Variable Dearness Allowance thereon taking in to account the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.

The Government periodically reviews and revises the minimum rates of wages and extends its coverage across employments and provide for floor wage. The provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and amalgamated in the Code on Wages Act, 2019, as passed by the Parliament and notified on 08.08.2019. The Code on Wages, 2019, provides for universal minimum wage and floor wage across employments in organized and unorganized sector and the existing provision, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to restrict applicability of minimum wages to Scheduled employments, has been dispensed with under the Code. The Code mandates the Central Government to fix floor wage applicable across the Central and the State sphere.
