

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3297
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST AUGUST, 2025**

CRISIS OF QUALITY JOBS

3297 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL :

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

- (a) given the latest PLFS data, the reasons for the alarming rise in the share of unpaid family helpers and low-paying self-employment, indicating a crisis of quality jobs;**
- (b) despite the registration of millions on the e-Shram portal, what tangible social security benefits like pension and insurance have actually been delivered;**
- (c) the reasons of Government's failure to notify a national social security scheme for gig workers, years after the passage of the Code on Social Security;**
- (d) the reasons for the sharp decline in female labour force participation; and**
- (e) the effectiveness of National Career Service portals in providing actual jobs versus just registrations?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) : The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Percentage distribution of workers in usual status by status in employment for self-employed workers (including helper in household enterprise) has increased from 52.2% in 2017-18 to 58.4% in 2023-24.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Government is implementing various schemes to boost employment (including self-employment) and quality of employment, like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), Deen Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NULM), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), Stand-up India Scheme, Start Up India , Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), etc. The details of various employment generation schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Further, more than 7.91 crore net subscribers have joined Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) between September 2017 and May 2025 indicating increase in formalization of the job market. Also, more than 1.29 crore net subscribers have joined EPFO during 2024-25.

(b): In keeping with the vision of the Budget Announcement 2024-25 on developing eShram as a One-Stop-Solution for unorganized workers to have access to various social security schemes, Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the eShram- "One-Stop-Solution" on 21st October 2024. eShram- "One-Stop-Solution" entails integration of different social security/welfare schemes at single portal i.e., eShram. This enables unorganized workers registered on eShram to access social security schemes and see benefits availed by them so far, through eShram.

So far, fourteen (14) schemes of different Central Ministries/ Departments have already been integrated/ mapped with the eShram to extend benefits and access to social security, health insurance and accidental claim to eShram cardholders including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

Apart from the above, eShram has linkages with National Career Service (NCS) for Job Opportunities, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for Skill Development and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) for Pension.

Scheme-wise details of workers registered on eShram who have successfully availed benefits under various social security schemes of Central Government integrated / mapped with eShram are at Annexure-I.

(c): The Code on Social Security 2020 provides for framing of suitable social security measures for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The Code also provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance the welfare scheme.

Recognizing the contribution of gig workers on online platforms, the Government in its Budget announcement made on 1.2.2025, proposed to register them on e-Shram portal, arrange for their identity cards and provide health care under Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) health scheme.

(d): As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for females of age 15 years and above has increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24. Also, the estimated Worker Population Ratio (WPR) indicating employment on usual status for females of age 15 years and above has increased from 22.0% to 40.3% during the same period.

(e): Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India is running the National Career Service (NCS) Portal which is a one-stop solution for providing career related services including information on jobs from private and government sectors, information on online & offline job fairs, job search & matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, employability enhancement programmes etc. through a digital platform[www.ncs.gov.in].

As on 14.07.2025, NCS portal has over 48 lakh active employers and over 40 lakh active vacancies. In addition, more than 6.43 crore vacancies have been mobilized till date.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3297 for 21.08.2025 regarding “Crisis of Quality Jobs”

Number of eShram registrants availing benefits under select eShram integrated/ mapped with Central Government schemes as under:

Scheme	Number of Registrations
One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)	23,88,72,825
Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)	15,10,05,933
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)	8,45,71,947
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS)	6,13,13,022
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)	3,92,94,453
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	2,25,52,062
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)	97,22,670
Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi)	32,20,776
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandna Yojana (PMMVY)	31,27,099
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)	24,70,135
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	23,690
National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)	16,667

Source: eShram data