

through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. According to the most recent round of quinquennial survey, percentage of working poor (those employed but are unable to earn sufficient income from their work to rise above the official poverty line) was estimated on usual status basis (based on mixed recall period) at around 22 percent in the beginning of January, 2005 in the country and during the same period 10.8 million unemployed persons were in the estimated labour force of 469.94 million.

(c) Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarana- jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises. Government have also decided to skill 500 million persons by 2022 in order to improve their productivity so that they can earn higher wages and get out of poverty trap.

#### **Educated and uneducated unemployed**

4406. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified the number of unemployed educated and uneducated persons till 31 March, 2010 in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government to reduce the Unemployment problems of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with employment exchanges was 39.97 million as on 31.12.2007 for which the latest data is available. Of these, 30.65 million job seekers were educated and 9.32 million were uneducated.

(b) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities in the country. In order to achieve creation of 58 million additional job opportunities, in addition to normal growth process, Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Some of the important ones are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar

Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS). Projection of additional employment opportunities of 58 million during the 11th plan period exceeds the projected addition of 45 million to the labour force and, therefore, it is expected to lead to a reduction in the unemployment rate to below 5% by the end of the Plan.

**Raising contribution towards pension fund to 50 per cent**

4407. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to raise the contribution for the pension fund to 50 per cent of the employees' contribution towards the Employees Pension Scheme; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) There is no proposal to raise the contribution for the Pension Fund to 50 per cent of the employees' contribution towards the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Modernisation of employment exchanges**

4408. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has modernized the Employment Exchanges functioning in various States/UTs through Public Private Partnership;
- (b) if so, the details of the Employment Exchanges modernized during 2008-09 and 2009-10 in various States;
- (c) the details of the terms and conditions of PPP for modernization of such exchanges in various States; and
- (d) the details of the exchanges likely to be modernized during 2010-11 and the details of the funds allocated for the said purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The proposed project for modernization of all Employment Exchanges under National e-Governance Plan is in the process of seeking mandatory approvals. Considering the social aspect of the project, the proposed Public Private Partnership (PPP) model is an annuity