

like Goods and Services Tax have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities.

Direct intervention schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 percent of the stipend payable to apprentices enhances employability of the youth to access employment. The Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) incentivizes industry to promote employment generation wherein Government reimburses employer's contribution of 8.33% EPS made to new employees.

The Model Land Leasing Act has been prepared to facilitate States for enactment of own land leasing laws to enhance agricultural productivity. The new legal framework is likely to encourage the land owners to lease out land without any fear of losing land rights and enable the tenant farmers to access bank credit, insurance, disaster relief and other support services. The land owners may also lease out land for agricultural purpose and thus help occupational mobility of the rural poor and help in rural poverty reduction. This shall provide opportunity for occupational diversification to land owners to opt for non-farm employment.

The textile package announced by the Government includes several tax and production incentives. Under the package, the entire employer's contribution of 12% towards the Employers Provident Fund Scheme, for new employees of garment industry earning less than ₹15,000 per month, is met by the Government of India for the first three years. In addition, considering the seasonal nature of the industry, fixed term employment has been introduced for the garment sector. A fixed term workman will be considered at par with permanent workman in terms of working hours, wages, allowances and other statutory dues. The Government has also suggested bringing in flexibility in labour laws to increase productivity.

Ending poverty and other problems

2826. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India has urged the United Nations to end poverty in all forms everywhere, ensure food security, achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that India had submitted a report on voluntary national review of the implementation of sustainable development goals, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) In September 2015, 193 countries including India committed

to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as detailed in the United Nations resolution, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. There are 17 SDGs, which have 169 targets to be achieved by 2030. The SDG 1 is to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"; SDG 2 is to "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"; and SDG 5 is to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." The SDGs facilitate the development action for greater human wellbeing.

(b) India presented a report on Voluntary National Review on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the country to the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations on 19th July 2017. The India Voluntary National Review report focused on SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Starting more skill training centres

2827. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to start more skill training centres with the support of NITI Aayog, top educational institutes and public and private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for employment of skilled/trained workforce;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to increase the numbers of strategic partners for enhancing the capacity for skill training facilities in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and of the strategic partners in that State affiliated to NSDC and other arms of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna does not mandate establishing of skill center, but aims to encourage and promote Skill Development for the youth throughout the country by aligning itself with Common Norms guidelines. The scheme is being implemented