

years. Converged PMSBY gives coverage of ₹ 2 lakhs on accidental death and disability at premium of ₹ 12 per annum. These converged schemes are being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India. The annual premium is shared on 50:50 basis by the Central Government and the State Governments.

Threat to employment due to automation and digitization

1854. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether automation and digitization is the main reason for unemployment in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government and plans to deal with this situation;
- (c) whether Government has identified areas which need to be kept free from automation and digitization; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to promote labour-intensive industries the most and popularise the products therefrom to generate employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government has not received any information about unemployment caused by automation or digitization. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT-ITeS industry is estimated to directly employ nearly 39 lakh people, an addition of around 175,000 people over the year FY 2016-17. In addition, indirect employment is around 1-1.2 crore. The IT industry will remain a major net hirer in FY 2017-18. According to NASSCOM survey, around 6 lakh employments have been made in the IT sector in the last three years.

According to NASSCOM, the skills profile is set to undergo a rapid change as demand for skills around digital technologies grows exponentially. It is believed that technology adoption will lead to more job creation across sectors in the long run.

Government bodies like National Skill Development Council (NSDC) and the Sector Skills Council (SSC) address the present and the future requirements of identifying the unique job roles and the skills requirement for the same. In order to improve the employability of youth, around 22 Ministries/Departments run skill development schemes across various sectors.

The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/ up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles.

(d) Government has also decided to strategically promote labour intensive manufacturing and expand employment opportunities by promoting tourism and agro based industries. Government announced a booster package of ₹ 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector. MUDRA and START UPS schemes are initiated by the Government for facilitating self-employment.

In addition, Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector in the economy, fast-tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendyal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

**Unemployment and retrenchment due to decline in
exports in various sectors**

†1855. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors along with textile sector in which decline was recorded in exports in the year 2015-16 and the extent of decline recorded in exports from April to September in the year 2016;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of labourers have suffered retrenchment especially in textile industry due to decline in exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to save the labourers from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per information from Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Commerce and Industry the decline in exports including textile in percentage for the year 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15 and for the period April-September for the year 2016 *vis-a-vis* 2015 is the Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.