

proposal to issue a Unique ID *i.e.* Unorganised Workers Identification Number (UWIN) and allotment of a Aadhaar seeded Identification number to them without issuing any smart card, has been approved by the Central Government with an estimated cost of ₹ 402.7 crore to be implemented in two years during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Impact of demonetisation on unorganised sector

1071. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the percentage of employment in the country in the organised and unorganised sectors;

(b) whether Government has made any effort to study the impact of demonetisation on the unorganised sector; and

(c) whether Government has made any plan to rehabilitate the labour in the unorganised sector that lost its employment due to demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the NSSO survey results, the distribution of workers during 2011-12 is given below:

(Figures in %)

Worker	Industry Sector		
	Unorganized	Organised	Total
Informal	82.6	9.8	92.4
Formal	0.4	7.2	7.6
TOTAL	83.0	17.0	100.0

(b) and (c) There is no data available for the period subsequent to demonetisation for employment/unemployment.

Report on job loss for monitoring Indian economy

1072. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the data released by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, two million jobs were lost between January and August, 2017;

(b) whether it is also a fact that year-on-year basis, there has been an addition of 4 million jobs between January-April, 2017 period and 2 million jobs for May-August, 2017; and

(c) how the Ministry looks at this trend and what efforts it is making since monthly overall unemployment rate has been rising steadily since August, 2017, from 4.11 per cent in August to 5.68 per cent in October, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) is a private company involved in the business of making estimates on economic parameters. However, Government cannot authenticate its methodologies and findings. As per the information obtained from the office of CMIE, the estimated number of persons employed during Wave 10 conducted during January-April 2017 was 405 million compared to 406.5 million during Wave 9 conducted during September-December 2016 implying a fall in employment of 1.5 million during this period.

Further, employment during Wave 12 conducted during May-August, 2017 was estimated at 404.6 million implying a fall of 0.6 million compared to employment during Wave 11. Therefore, the total fall in employment between May-August, 2017 and September-December, 2016 works out to 1.9 million.

Year-on-year comparisons can be made for two Waves. These show an increase in employment. Employment during Wave 10 of January-April, 2017 at 405 million was 42 million higher than during Wave 7 of January-April, 2016. And, employment during Wave 11 of May-August, 2017 at 404.6 million was 1.5 million higher than it was in Wave 8 of May-August, 2016.

Employment generation has been an important priority of the Government. Employment generation is both a cause and consequence of economic growth and is impacted by demographic shifts and technological transformations.

Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of 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 (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The Make in India, Skill India, Digital India schemes are being implemented by the Government and these are likely to enhance the employment base. MUDRA and START UPS scheme are initiated by the Government for facilitating self employment.

A new Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana” has been initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the year 2016-17 for incentivising industry for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme employers would be provided an incentive to enhance employment where the Government will pay the employer’s contribution of 8.33% EPS made to new employees. In textiles (apparel and made-ups) sector, the Government will also pay the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition. Government has also announced a booster package of ₹ 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector.

Government has also implemented the National Career Service Project providing a package of employment related services *inter alia* consisting of a portal (www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers.

Investment of PF money on REITs

1073. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PF subscribers earn lower returns on their retirement corpus because of myopic and archaic investment rules that forbid investment of PF money in private equity, mutual funds and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs);

(b) whether EPFO has capped its equity portfolio to 15 per cent whereas world over there has been growing investments of public funds in REITs where too EPFO has capped its limit to 5 per cent of its investible corpus; and

(c) whether Government will allow workers to shift their mandatory savings from their wages and salaries to National Pension Scheme for better returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF), based on the Pattern of Investment notified by the Government, decides guidelines for investment so as to ensure maximum return with minimal risks. Over the years, the rate of interest earned by EPF subscribers is more than the interest rate earned under similar saving schemes like Public Provident Fund (PPF), General Provident Fund (GPF), etc.

(b) At present, Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation invests 15 per cent of investible amount in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) which is the maximum permissible limit as per the Pattern of Investment notified by the Government.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.