

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has been launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for incentivising employers for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, Government is paying entire employer's contribution (12% or as admissible) towards EPF and EPS for all eligible new employees for all sectors for 3 years. Till 31.05.2019, the scheme has covered 1,51,579 establishments and 1.21 crore beneficiaries.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by Government *inter alia* for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto ₹ 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. Upto 31st March, 2019, 18.26 crore loans were sanctioned under the scheme.

Government has implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project which comprises a digital portal that provides a nation-wide online platform for the job seekers and employers for job-matching in a dynamic, efficient and responsive manner and has a repository of career content to job seekers.

Start-up India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong ecosystem that is conducive for the growth of start-up businesses, to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, Housing for All, Infrastructure development and Industrial corridors have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities. Ministries/Departments/States run skill development schemes across various sectors to improve the employability of youth and also facilitate placements. Schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 percent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.

Unemployment rate amongst different age groups

1378. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) job survey for 2017-18 confirming a surge in the unemployment rate to 6.1 per cent, a 45-year high;

(b) if so, the details and the breakup of unemployment rate amongst different age groups and rural and urban men and women; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to revive investments in the manufacturing sector to generate jobs to address the unemployment situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has launched a new regular Employment-Unemployment Survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) during 2017-18 with certain changes in survey methodology, data collection mechanism and sampling design *vis-à-vis* the earlier quinquennial (once in every five years) Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSSO. The PLFS was launched with an objective of measuring quarterly changes of various labour market statistical indicators in urban areas as well as generating the annual estimates of these indicators for rural and urban areas. Based on the Annual Report (July, 2017-June, 2018) of PLFS, Unemployment Rate (UR) in usual status (ps+ss) are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Based on the Annual Report (July, 2017-June, 2018) of PLFS, unemployment rates for different age groups for rural and urban males and females are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Overall performance of manufacturing sector is an interplay of several factors such as domestic demand, demand for exports, level of investment and prevailing prices. The Government aims at creating a conducive environment by streamlining the existing regulations and processes and eliminating unnecessary requirements and procedures. 'Make in India' programme has been launched which aims at making India a global hub for manufacturing, research and innovation and an integral part of the global supply chain. Several steps to boost domestic manufacturing are being taken as part of schemes such as 'Startup India', 'Ease of Doing Business', Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, Business Reform Action Plan, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy etc. Further, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalized progressively.

Statement-I

*Unemployment Rate (in per cent) according to usual status (ps+ss)
from PLFS (2017-18)*

All-India

Round (year)	Rural		Urban		Rural+Urban
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Person
PLFS (2017-18)	5.8	3.8	7.1	10.8	6.1

Source: Annual Report, PLFS: 2017-18.

Statement-II

*Unemployment Rate (in percent) in usual status (ps+ss) for
different age group during 2017-18*

All-India

Age-group	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-29 years	17.4	13.6	18.7	27.2
15 years and above	5.7	3.8	6.9	10.8
All	5.8	3.8	7.1	10.8

Source: Annual Report, PLFS: 2017-18.

Labour Code on Safety to protect labourers in workplace

1379. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a Labour Safety Code to protect labourers in the workplace and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether most of the labour force will be excluded, as some experts have asserted, because of the conditions mentioned in the recognized labourers as per the Code and if so, the ways in which the large labour community will be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In line with the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour, a draft Labour Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions has been prepared by amalgamating, simplifying and rationalizing the relevant provisions of 13 Central Labour Acts in relation to occupational safety, health and working conditions, hours of work/leave/holiday, welfare, general duties of employers, employees, architect, manufacturers and enforcement mechanism. Presently the draft Labour Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions is at pre-legislative stage.

Significance of employment exchanges

1380. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that employment exchanges are gradually losing their significance due to one reason or the other;