

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) To have a uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW) as a non statutory measure was mooted on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in 1991. On the basis of increase in the Consumer Price Index, the Central Government has fixed the National Floor Level Minimum Wages from ₹160/- to ₹176/- per day w.e.f. 01.06.2017.

Rising unemployment rate

1079. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's unemployment rate has risen to 8.5 per cent due to economic slowdown and contraction of industrial output;
- (b) the number of employable men and women in urban and rural areas presently categorised as unemployed;
- (c) the labour participation rate of male and female workers in the economy; and
- (d) what steps Government proposes to revive job creation and employment for youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the results of annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during 2017-18 and annual employment-unemployment survey conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated unemployment rate on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis for the persons of age 15 years and above to the extent available is given below:

Region	Gender	Unemployment Rate (in %)	
		Survey by Labour Bureau	Survey by NSS(PLFS)
		2015-16	2017-18
Rural	Male	2.9	5.7
	Female	4.7	3.8
	Person	3.4	5.3
Urban	Male	3.0	6.9
	Female	10.9	10.8
	Person	4.4	7.7
Rural +Urban	Male	3.0	6.1
	Female	5.8	5.6
	Person	3.7	6.0

Note: Survey methodology and sample selection are different in PLFS and Labour Bureau survey.

(c) As per the results of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, during 2017-18, the estimated Labour force participation rate on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis for persons aged 15 years and above in the country was 75.8% for male and 23.3% for female.

(d) Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. 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 such as 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).

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.

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.

Besides, 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 per cent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.

Eradication of child labour

1080. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the practice of child labour still going on in various parts of the country in spite of a ban on it;

(b) whether Government has made a law through Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 to eradicate child labour completely from the country; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that only 23 per cent of the cases reach conviction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. For elimination of child labour, the Government is committed to elimination of child labour in the country. The Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force with effect from 1.9.2016. The Amendment Act inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Amendment Act also provides the stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has made the offence as cognizable. As per provisions contained in the Act, whoever employs any child or permits any child to work in contravention shall be punishable with