

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood.

ASPIRE (A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship) was launched to set up a network of technology centres and to set up incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship in agro-industry. The individuals trained under the ASPIRE scheme of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/oMSME) can become agri-entrepreneurs/entrepreneurs and can seek financial support under different schemes of the Government including Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) under which loans are provided by banks and subsidy to the extent of 15-35% is given by the Government of India. Individuals can also seek employment in the related industry or can seek further higher skills/training.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) was launched with the objective to incentivise employers for creation of employment. Under the scheme, Government of India is paying Employer's full contribution *i.e.* 12% towards EPF and EPS both (as admissible from time to time) for a period of three years to the new employees through EPFO. The beneficiaries registered upto 31st March, 2019 will receive the benefit for 3 years from the date of registration under the scheme.

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.

Rising unemployment rate

†440. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment rate has risen to 7.2 per cent in February 2019, which is the lowest in the last 28 months and the labour force has come down to 25.7

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

million since September, 2016 and the number of people who got employment has come down from 18.3 million;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of people who got employment in February, 2017 and February, 2019 respectively; and

(d) the details of the efforts made to minimise unemployment by creating more job opportunities?

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 employment-unemployment survey conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated labour force participation rate, worker population ratio and unemployment rate on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis for the persons of age 15 years and above to the extent available in the country is given below:

Labour Force Indicators	2017-18(PLFS)	2015-16 (Labour Bureau)
Labour Force Participation Rate	49.8%	52.4%
Worker Population Ratio	46.8%	50.5%
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	3.7%

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

(c) and (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 Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, respectively. Employment generated through these schemes/programmes in country to the extent available is given below:

Schemes/Year	2017-18	2018-19
Employment generated under PMEGP (in lakh)	3.87	5.87
Persondays Generated under MGNREGS (in crore)	233.74	268.00
Candidates placed under DDU-GKY (in lakh)	0.76	1.36
Placement under DAY-NULM (in lakh)	1.15	1.63

Source: Concerned Ministries

Under Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing a flagship scheme known as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 with an objective to provide skilling to one crore people under Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country for four years i.e. 2016-2020. As on 17-01-2020, 16.6 lakh (appx.) candidates have been placed across the country under PMKVY.

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.

Reduction in ESI contribution

441. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the employers contribution to ESI has reduced recently and why such reduction is decided;
- (b) the way this reduction will affect the employees and their ESI benefits;
- (c) total amount of pending contribution to ESI by different companies; the list of top 10 defaulter companies and the pending amount;