

(NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation during 2017-18, the estimated unemployment rate, worker population ratio and labour force participation 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)
Unemployment Rate	6.0%
Worker Population Ratio	46.8%
Labour Force Participation Rate	49.8%

Further, as per the information received from the States/UTs, the number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered on live register of employment exchanges in the country to the extent available were 4.24 crore during 2017 and the number of job seekers placed through employment exchanges were 4.25 lakh during the same period.

Elimination of child labour

2036. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is a signatory of International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention 182 which aims to eliminate child labour;
- (b) if not, whether Government is aware that a kind of modern days slavery of child labour is still existing surreptitiously in various parts of the country; and
- (c) whether Government will consider stringent legal measures to eliminate the practice since the crime goes on stealthily despite Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, by exploiting the poverty of the downtrodden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India stands committed to the 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 for 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 of the provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both. Provided that the parents or guardians of such children shall not be punished unless they permit such child for commercial purposes in contravention of the provisions of the Act.

After strengthening the legislative framework through amendment in Child Labour Act, the Government has also framed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017 which, *inter alia*, specifies the duties and responsibilities of State Governments and District Authorities to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

Payment of Minimum Wages

2037. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people earning less than ₹ 10,000 a month in the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and gender-wise;

(b) the relationship between increase/decrease in GDP and increase/decrease in employment over the last five years; and

(c) the number of industries paying and the number of people being paid wages below the minimum wage of ₹ 18,000 as recommended by the 7th Central Pay Commission in the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and gender-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No such type of statistics/information is maintained in this Ministry.