

Amendment in Minimum Wages Act

428. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to amend the rules on Minimum Wages Act to help labourers in getting minimum wages; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when steps will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Code on Wages, 2019 has been notified on 8th August, 2019. This code has subsumed The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The Code on Wages, 2019 has universalized the provision of Minimum Wage and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the class of work and wage ceiling. The Draft rules made under the Code on Wages, 2019 have been notified on 07.07.2020 for seeking suggestions of all stakeholders.

Jobs to unemployed youths

†429. SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of youths promised by Government to give jobs every year;
- (b) the number of youths provided jobs yearly during the last five years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that unemployment has increased after the Corona crisis;
- (d) if so, the rate of unemployment in villages and cities; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government to give two crore employment to the youths every year, the details thereof with achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) which is a placement based skill development programme for wage employment, skill development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETI) enabling a trainee to take bank credit and start her/his own enterprise and Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) with components of employment through skill training & placement and assistance for individuals/groups/SHGs of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures or micro enterprises. The scheme-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	Employment Generated
1.	Estimated number of employment generated under PMEGP during 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto 31.08.2020)	20,25,728
2.	Persondays generated under MGNREGA during 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto 08.09.2020) (No. in Crore)	1199.01
3.	(a) Candidates placed under DDU-GKY during 2016-17 to 2020-21 (upto August, 2020) (No. of Persons)	5,34,278
	(b) Total no. of candidates settled under RSETI	15,93,109
4.	Number of Skill trained candidates under DAY-NULM during FY-2015-16 to 2019-20	5,23,759
	Number of Beneficiaries assisted for setting up Individual/ Group micro-enterprises under DAY-NULM during FY-2015-16 to 2019-20	5,08,026
	Number of loans disbursed to SHGs under SHG-Bank Linkage programme of the Mission under DAY-NULM during FY-2015-16 to 2019-20	5,33,101

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. As on 04.09.2020, over 25.32 crore loans amounting to ₹ 12.91 lakh crore have been extended under the Scheme, since its inception.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) was launched in 2016 with the objective to incentivise employers for creation of new employment with social security benefits. Under the scheme, Government of India is paying Employer's full contribution *i.e.* 12% towards Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) both (as admissible from time to time) for a period of three years to the new employees through EPFO w.e.f. 01.04.2018. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary through establishment was 31st March 2019. The beneficiaries registered upto 31st March, 2019 will continue to receive the benefits for 3 years from the date of registration under the scheme. As on 14th September, 2020, 1.21 crore beneficiaries have been benefitted through 1.52 lakh establishments.

The global spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) followed by lockdowns has affected economies across the globe, including India. Covid-19 has resulted in large number of migrant workers going back to their native places. Government has taken initiatives for creating jobs at local levels & supporting migrant workers through Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), Aatmanirbhar Bharat & Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhayan (PMGKRA). Aatmanirbhar Bharat is based on Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand to create jobs for the youth. It encompasses an economic package of ₹ 20 Lakh Crores *inter-alia*, for facilitating creation of employment opportunities in the country.

Under PMGKY, Government of India is contributing both 12% employer's share and 12% employee's share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% of the wage for the wage month from March to August, 2020 for all the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than ₹ 15000/-.

Statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for three months.

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.