

returns; (v) issuing advisory to promptly attend to distress calls of workers /employees and also guide them in temporary shelters; (vi) using Building and other construction workers (BOCW) cess fund for transfer of adequate funds in the bank account of construction workers affected by COVID-19 outbreak; (vii) supporting employees and workers by not terminating them and not cutting their wages; and (viii) for taking preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

To boost employment and livelihood opportunities for migrant workers returning to villages, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, Government of India has launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20th June 2020. The Abhiyaan focuses on durable rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the villages. Skill Mapping of the rural migrant labour is being done to help them work closer home. The Abhiyaan involves intensified and focused implementation of 25 target driven works to provide employment and create infrastructure in the rural areas of 116 districts of 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore. Apart from this, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched various schemes for migrant workers who have returned to their native places. One of the schemes is Anganwadi services which has been extended to children of migrant workers.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries have sanctioned 700 food processing/preservation and infrastructure projects in which migrant labourers will get employment.

To provide employment to the migrant workers Ministry of Transport and Highways has identified the ongoing works/new works for the road construction. Ministry of Steel assisted migrant workers and their families with food packets and face mask, milk powder etc.

The Department of Bio Technology has set up 30 Biotech -Kisan hubs in the country covering all Agroclimatic zones, 150 Districts including 101 aspirational districts which will help migrant workers to earn their livelihood through farming and expose them to the innovative methods of farming of high value crops.

Employment rate

416. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly unemployment rate in the country in the last twelve months and the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has assessed the impact of lockdown imposition on employment status in the country, and the details thereof; and

(c) the number of people who have lost jobs due to pandemic induced restrictions in the last six months and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) on employment and unemployment is conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the PLFS 2018-19, the estimated unemployment rate to the extent available based on such survey for persons of all ages on usual status (principal status + subsidiary status) basis in the country was 5.8%. 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 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* facilitating creation of employment opportunities in the country.

Employment to construction workers

417. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building and other construction workers (BOCW), the most vulnerable segment of the unorganised sector workers in the country have suffered severely during lockdown which was announced due to COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the cash assistance disbursed and the criteria fixed for transfer of cash assistance;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to provide employment to these construction workers who are migrant labourers working in different States far away from their native places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard?