

(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) In order to mitigate the financial crisis of the construction workers and protect them against the economic disruptions due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and Country-wide lockdown the Central Government has taken numerous measures to provide them financial assistance, food packages and other benefits. Advisory guidelines have been issued on 24.03.2020 under Section - 60 of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996 to all the States/ UTs Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards to frame a scheme for transfer of adequate funds in the bank account of construction workers through direct benefit transfer (DBT mode) from the cess funds collected by the States/ UTs. In response the State Welfare Boards have cumulatively disbursed around ₹5,000/- Crores, through DBT, to the bank accounts of 1.83 Crores (approx.) BOCW Workers during lockdown and thereafter. Food relief packages have also been provided by the States/UTs to around 30 lakh workers from the cess fund. Under Section 60 of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996 the Central Government has issued on 06.07.2020 a Mission Mode Project (MMP) and advised all the States/UT Governments to implement the Mission Mode Project (MMP) immediately to register all the left out BOC workers who have not been registered with the State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards which will ensure that all the registered BOC workers get all the benefits of welfare schemes of the State Welfare Boards and social security schemes of the Central/State Governments like Health Insurance Scheme through PM-JAY (Ayushman Bharat), Life and Disability Cover through PM-Jivan Jyoti Beema Yojana, PM-Suraksha Beema Yojana and Life-long Pension after 60 years through PM-Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana and subsistence allowance during unemployment, illness, epidemics, natural calamities by using cess fund for the welfare of BOC workers. The time-bound Mission Mode Project relies on easing out the processes, doing away with the physical presence of workers for registration and renewals, reposing trust on workers by self-certification and giving due benefits to all eligible workers in terms of universal social security and welfare schemes by optimally utilizing cess fund. This would provide BOC workers much needed financial help to mitigate the crisis and empower them to withstand the onslaught of calamities in future.

The Central Government has enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers which *inter-alia* provides for registration of establishments employing Inter-State Migrant workers, Licensing of contractors etc. Migrant workers employed

with such establishments are to be provided statutory wages as per the rule in force, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. The Central Government has issued comprehensive Advisory Guidelines on 27.07.2020 to all the States/UTs for the welfare of the migrant workers returning to the destination States in the backdrop of Covid - 19. The States/UTs have been advised to take adequate steps to streamline the migration of the workers to mitigate the hardships of migrant workers returning to the destination States/UTs. The States/UTs have been advised to implement the advisory guidelines by quickly gearing up their labour Law enforcement machinery and ensuring statutory compliance by all the stake-holders which could provide migrant workers much needed help to mitigate the financial crisis and empower them to deal with the pandemic. The States/UTs have also been advised to maintain updated data of the migrant workers to facilitate the administration to extend benefits of the welfare schemes of the Government to the migrant workers.

Medical benefit under ESIS

418. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the labourers working on construction sites can avail medical benefits under the Employee State Insurance Scheme (ESIS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is planning to strengthening the labour protection in terms of job security, wages, working conditions, social security and welfare; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The ESI Scheme was extended to construction site workers of construction companies covered under the ESI Act, 1948 with effect from 01.08.2015. Construction site workers are eligible to avail the benefits provided under the Act as per their entitlement. However, more than 20 construction companies from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have disputed the coverage and have moved the Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has granted stay in the matter *vide* its order dated 06.07.2018.