

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2021**

IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LABOURERS

**1114. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by Government to improve the condition of labourers in the country during the last one year;**
- (b) whether any permanent measures have been taken to increase the employment situation for them since the issue of labour has become serious due to COVID-19 prevailing in various parts of the country, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the target of providing employment on the basis of such increase would be achieved?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): Government has taken various initiatives to improve the condition of labourers in the country through providing social security, incentivizing employers for creation of new employment, encouraging rural citizens to empower returnee migrant and provide livelihood opportunities during the last one year to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and lock down.

The details of the steps taken by the Government are summarised as under:-

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- (i) To mitigate the financial crisis of the labourers and protect them against the economic disruptions due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the Government of India has provided financial assistance, food packages, ration and other benefits through relief package of Rs.1.70 Lakh Crore under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) in March, 2020.**
- (ii) In order to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for labourers, Government of India launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20th June 2020. The Abhiyaan focussed on durable rural infrastructure and providing modern facilities like internet in the villages. Skill Mapping of the rural labour was also done to enhance their employability on the basis of their skills, to enable them work closer to their homes. 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. The Abhiyaan has generated 50,78,68,671 man-days.**
- (iii). Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojna (ABRY) Scheme has been launched to incentivize employers for creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID- 19 pandemic. This scheme being implemented through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSME and will encourages them to engage more workers. Under ABRY, the Government of India is bearing both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments. Financial package of Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh crore (approx.) under "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat" has been launched specifically to inter-alia create employment opportunities, for migrant workers, workers of unorganized sector, strengthening of MSME Sector and promoting rural economy. It includes several initiatives for all these sectors.**

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- (iv). Approximately 80 crore beneficiaries have been provided additional 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses, free of cost every month till November, 2020 under provisions of National Food Security Act.**
- (v). In response to the Government of India's directions, the State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards have cumulatively disbursed around Rs.5000 crore, to approx. 1.83 crore Building and Other Construction (BOC) Workers during lockdown and thereafter. In addition to this, around 30 lakh BOC workers were also provided food relief packages.**
- (vi). For the benefit of 50 lakh street vendors, Government of India has also launched SVANidhi Scheme on 1st June, 2020 to provide them collateral free working capital loan upto Rs.10,000/- to resume their lost livelihood due to Covid-19 and lock-down.**
- (vii). In rural areas, wages under MGNREGA have been enhanced from Rs.182 to Rs.202 per day for the benefit of rural workers including returning migrant workers.**
- (viii). Ministry of Food Processing Industries have sanctioned 700 food processing/preservation and infrastructure projects in which migrant labourers can be employed.**
- (ix). Ministry of Labour & Employment has taken the decision to extend the scheme of Atal Beemit Kalyan Yojna for another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021. It has also been decided to enhance the rate of unemployment relief under the scheme to 50% of wages from earlier rate of 25% along with relaxation of eligibility conditions for insured workers who have lost their employment due to COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown.**
