

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2021**

JOB LOSS IN INFORMAL SECTOR DURING COVID-19 PERIOD

3314. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that around 15 per cent of informal sector workers continue to be unemployed after losing their jobs during COVID period;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact after unlocking of economy nearly half of those informal sector workers have been reemployed in their previous jobs with hefty pay cut, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to restore normalcy in informal job sector?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has been conducting Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) since 2017. As per the second Annual Report of PLFS (July 2018-June 2019) released in June, 2020, the Unemployment Rate (UR) according to usual status for persons of age 15 years and above at all India level (rural+urban) is 5.8%.

Contd..2/-

More than rupees twenty seven lakh crore financial package under “Aatm Nirbhar Bharat Yojna” has been launched specifically to create employment opportunities for migrant workers, workers for unorganised sector, strengthening of MSME Sector and promoting rural economy. It includes plethora of initiatives for all these sectors. Further, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY) Scheme is being implemented to incentivize 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), reduces the financial burden of the employers of various sectors/industries including MSMEs and encourages them to hire more workers. Under ABRY, Government of India is crediting for a period of two years 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.

Under the ABRY Scheme, approximately 16.5 lakhs beneficiaries have registered themselves with the Scheme w.e.f 01.10.2020. Out of this, approximately 13.64 lakhs are new joiners with UAN generated on or after 01.10.2020 and approximately 2.86 lakhs are re-joiners who were rendered un-employed during covid pandemic from 01.03.20 to 30.09.20 & rejoined from 01.10.20 onwards.
