

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2022**

UN-EMPLOYMENT AMONG WOMEN AFTER COVID-19 OUTBREAK

***133. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, female employment in the country fell steeply;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that women in the country represent 48 per cent of the population, they contribute only around 17 per cent of GDP compared to 40 per cent in China; and**
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve prospects for working women?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *133 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28.07.2022 BY SHRI SANJAY
RAUT REGARDING “UN-EMPLOYMENT AMONG WOMEN AFTER COVID-19
OUTBREAK”**

(a) to (d): The official data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June of the next year. Quarterly reports for urban sector are also released under PLFS.

As per the Quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for urban sector released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), during the COVID-19 pandemic, the urban labour market was adversely impacted. The female unemployment rate for urban sector rose to 21.1% during April-June, 2020. With the revival of economy in the subsequent quarters of 2020-21 and 2021-22, the labour market indicators for female showed a swift recovery. As per the latest quarterly report of PLFS (January-March, 2022) for urban sector, the female unemployment rate declined to 10.1%. Further, as per the Annual PLFS report, the overall estimated female Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for age 15 years and above was 5.1%, 4.2% and 3.5% during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. It indicates that female unemployment rate has continuously declined during this period.

As per the available Census 2011 report, women population was around 48.5%. The estimates on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and gender-wise GDP is not released. Some studies indicate that most women work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics, and thus women's work tends to be under-reported. However, as on 12.07.2022, out of the total registration of the unorganized workers on e-Shram Portal on self-declaration basis, 52.84% are women.

The Government has taken various steps to improve women's participation in the labour force and quality of their employment. A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in the labour laws for equal opportunity and congenial work environment for women workers. The Code on Social Security, 2020 has the provisions for enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, provision for mandatory crèche facility in the establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions (OSH), 2020 has the provisions for the employment of women in the aboveground mines including opencast workings has been allowed between 7 pm and 6 am, and in below ground working between 6 am and 7 pm in technical, supervisory and managerial work where continuous presence may not be required.

The Code on Wages 2019 has provisions that there shall be no discrimination in an establishment or any unit thereof among employees on the ground of gender in matters relating to wages by the same employer, in respect of the same work or work of similar nature done by any employee. Further, no employer shall make any discrimination on the ground of sex while recruiting any employee for the same work or work of similar nature in the conditions of employment, except where the employment of women in such work is prohibited or restricted by or under any law for the time being in force

To enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.
