

**Need to provide social security, insurance, retirement/pension and all other
benefits of regular employment to Gig Workers**

SHRI A.A. RAHIM (Kerala): Sir, delivery boys for apps like *Swiggy*, *Zomato* and other workers who are engaged in such on-demand work are called gig workers. As per the *e-Shram* portal, the number of gig workers registered as on 28.01.2022 is 7,17,686. According to an estimate from a study by NITI Aayog, in 2020-21, seven lakh workers were engaged in the gig economy. It is estimated that the gig workforce will number 2.35 crore by 2029-30. Gig workers constitute a significant and increasing part of our workforce. However, they are facing severe exploitation at the hands of large corporations. Companies are getting away with exploitation by denying even the label of 'worker' or 'employee' to gig workers and rather giving to them empty titles such as 'partner' or 'executive'. This helps the companies deny any responsibility towards the gig workers. Further, though flexibility in gig work is touted as a major boon, in reality, the workers are suffering due to having to work long hours, much beyond the standard work day of eight hours. Often, this is to meet targets set by the company. Otherwise, they may face penalties. Also, they have to do this just to earn a meagre amount just enough for survival. We must not allow this super-exploitation of gig workers to continue. Special legislation must be brought for the recognition of gig workers, to extend the security of labour laws to them and to provide them social security, insurance, retirement/pension plans and all benefits of a regular employment.

I urge the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI (Jharkhand): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI N.R. ELANGO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for assistance in prevention and management of forest fires in Odisha

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the issue of raging instances of forest fires in the State of Odisha. Odisha reported 51,968 forest fires from November, 2020 to June, 2021, the highest in India for the period according to the reply obtained to a Starred Question in this august House. However, the reasons for the occurrence of forest fires are both