

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH DECEMBER, 2024**

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

1221. SMT. MAUSAM B NOOR:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with reports of International Labour Organisation (ILO) that youth unemployment rates in India are now higher than the global levels;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that Indian economy has not been able to create enough jobs for educated youths;**
- (c) whether rise in so called gig jobs or temporary and low paying employment is alarming for employment situation in India; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken by Government on these issues?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (d): The official data source of Employment/ Unemployment indicator in India is the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. The survey period is July to June every year.

As per the latest available Annual PLFS reports, the estimated Unemployment Rate (UR) on usual status for youth of age 15-29 years in the country has decreased from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10.2% in 2023-24 which is lower than the global unemployment rate of youth of 13.3 per cent [As per World Employment and Social Outlook Trends, 2024 published by International Labour Organization (ILO)]. Further, as per the India Employment Report 2024 brought out by ILO –IHD (Institute of Human Development) the share of unemployed youth out of the total youth population (15 to 29 years) declined from 7% in 2019 to 5% in 2022. The report also mentions that out of the total youth population (15 to 29 years), 37% were employed, 35% were students, 22% were engaged in domestic duties and only 5% were unemployed during 2022.

As per an estimation by NITI Aayog vide its report titled “India’s Booming Gig and Platform Economy” published in June 2022, the number of gig workers and platform workers in the country was 7.7 million in 2020-21 which is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30. This report also highlights the contribution of the gig-platform economy to India’s economic output and its immense potential for creating livelihood opportunities.

The provisions of social security & welfare for the gig and platform workers have already been introduced in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has been enacted by the Parliament. These measures relate to provision of life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc. The Code also provides for setting up a Social Security Fund to finance the welfare scheme.

Employment generation coupled with improving employability of all including youth is a priority of Government and is a multi stakeholder initiative. The various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India like Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Textile, etc. are implementing different employment generation schemes/ programmes. The details of these employment generation schemes/ programmes may be seen at https://dge.gov.in/dge/schemes_programmes.

Government announced in the Budget 2024-25, the Prime Minister’s package of 5 schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period with a central outlay of Rs. 2 lakh crore.

The Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme announced in Budget 2024-25, with an outlay of Rs 1,07,000 Crores, aims at job creation and formalisation of work force by providing Social Security through EPFO, enhancing employability and incentivizing additional employment generation through incentives to employees and employers.
