

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4798
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
WOMEN WORKFORCE
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the women are far behind on job front in all the areas and sectors despite progress in equality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard in consultation with International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per these survey reports, sector-wise annual growth rates of employment for women and men in rural and urban areas are given at Annex.

c) An increasing share of women in employment forms an important aspect of the current scenario of growth. Recognizing the crucial role women play in the current Indian economic growth and household survival, the 11th Five Year Plan document recognizes women not only as equal citizens, but also as "agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change". A multipronged approach is emphasized in the Plan to address issues of concern to women workers. Similarly, there is recognition that policies towards women's employment need to enhance women's empowerment. The Decent Work Country Programme for India jointly adopted by the ILO and tripartite constituents, has a strong emphasis on women workers and looks at gender equality as a cross cutting issue. In line with this, the Government of India/Ministry of Labour and Employment have worked and are working together on various issues which have a bearing on the working and living conditions of women. Some of these issues include analytical studies to look at the contribution that woman make to the economy, national consultation on current employment strategies and women's work, preparation of the draft national employment policy, implementation of the national skills development policy, study assessing the coverage/effectiveness of the current maternity protection mechanisms with a view to updating the provisions, extension of social security to unorganized workers, HIV/AIDS at the workplace, domestic workers, child labour with a family-centric approach, integration of Decent Work elements and women's concerns into the NREGP, green jobs, etc. As per various global indications, women have been affected by the impact of the global economic slowdown. As such, one important component of collaboration with ILO has been policy and sectoral studies to look at the impact of the global economic slowdown on India.