

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1939  
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010  
GROWTH OF UNEMPLOYED WOMEN  
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**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the number of unemployed women have been increasing continuously;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct survey to know the factual position:
- (d) If so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation and create more employment opportunities?

**Answer**

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

(a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys; conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the results of these surveys, women unemployment in the country on usual status basis estimated at 1.87 million in 1993-94 went up to 2.14 million in 1999-2000 and further increased to 3.97 million in 2004-05, showing an annual growth rate of 2.27 percent during 1993-94 to 1999-2000 and 13.16 percent during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

(b) Women unemployment has increased due to the fact that the pace of growth in labour force during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 at 4.09% per annum exceeded the growth in work force of 3.09% per annum, resulting into increase of unemployment rate from 1.71% in 1999-2000 to 2.60% in 2004-05.

(c & d) Quinquennial Labour Force Surveys on employment and unemployment, which includes women also, are conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05 and recent such survey has been conducted during 2009-10 and its results are expected to be available during 2011.

(e) In order to address the problem of unemployment and creation of more employment opportunities including those for women in the country, Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes both for men and women. Some of the important ones are Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Support to Training and Employment Programme for women (STEP). Under MGNREGA 262.63 crores person-days of employment were created during 2009-10 out of which 48.6% went in favour of women. One of the monitoring targets for the Eleventh Plan is to ensure that at least 33 percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all government schemes are women and girl children.