

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

UNEMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) the number of unemployed youths in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether unemployment rate is higher in rural areas than in urban areas in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to ensure ample employment opportunities for the youths in rural areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a to e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 BY SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE AND SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS DUE FOR REPLY ON 7.3.2011.

(a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per latest survey report, number of unemployed youth in the age group of 15-29 was estimated at 8.87 million on usual status basis during 2004-05. State-wise details of unemployment rates amongst youth in both rural and urban areas on usual status basis are at Annex.

(b & c) Unemployment rates according to usual status during 2004-05 were 1.7 per cent and 4.5 per cent in rural and urban areas of the country respectively, showing lower rate of unemployment in rural areas.

(d) Government has taken several steps to provide employment to unemployed persons including youth in the country. 11th Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million work opportunities through normal growth process and by implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the rural areas besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

(e)

(i) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a credit linked subsidy programme being implemented since 2008-09 by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, aims at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises by organizing traditional artisans and unemployed youth. During the year 2010-11, 30,729 units were assisted and 2.85 lakh persons provided employment upto 10th Feb, 2011 and Rs. 593.66 crore have been provided as margin money till January, 2011.

(ii) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a holistic self employment scheme which aims at providing sustainable income to rural BPL families through income generating assets/economic activities so as to bring them out of poverty line. During 2010-11 upto January, 2011, Rs. 1880 crore has been released by the Central Government and 14.85 lakh swarozgaries have been assisted.

(iii) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides for enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Rs. 32177.04 crore has been released as Central fund in the current financial year till 22.02.2011 and 158.58 crore of person days employment was generated upto January, 2011.