

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1752

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RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

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

- (a) the State-wise rate of unemployment in the country at present;
- (b) whether the people are leading a miserable life on account of unemployment in various parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the reasons for the rise in unemployment inspite of the schemes such as MGNREGA, PMRP self help group etc.;
- (e) whether this increase is a direct fallout of implementing liberal economic policy; and
- (f) the reaction and the steps taken by the Government to bring down the number of unemployed in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) 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. State-wise details of unemployment rates on usual status basis during 2004-05 are at Annex.

(b) & (c) According to the most recent round of quinquennial survey (2004-05), percentage of working poor (those employed but unable to earn sufficient income from their work to rise above the official poverty line) was estimated on usual status basis (based on mixed recall period) at around 22% and estimated number of unemployed persons was 10.84 million in the country. Such miserable condition may not be only on account of unemployment but mainly due to low productivity and low earnings.

(d) & (e) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) came into operation with effect from the financial year 2005-06 and therefore, its impact on unemployment situation in the survey conducted in 2004-05 is not reflected.

(f) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities on current daily status basis. It is expected that there would be reduction in unemployment rate to 4.83% towards the end of the Eleventh Plan period. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana(SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.