

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2056

ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012

DECREASING EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) whether the employment opportunities in rural areas in declining continuously in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) the details of employment opportunities available to the unemployed youth of rural and backward classes of the country;
- (d) the number of backward classes provided employment during the current financial year;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to conduct free programmes for technical skills in the rural and backward areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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 Office (NSSO). Last quinquennial labour force survey was conducted during 2009-10. As per the three most recent surveys, estimated employment on usual status basis in rural areas has increased from 305.33 million in 1999-2000 to 349.35 million in 2004-05 and declined to 340.61 million in 2009-10.

(b) The main reason behind the decline in employment in rural areas may be attributed to low absorption of workforce in agriculture which is mainly confined to rural areas.

(c) Estimated employment rate among the youth including backward classes of the country in the age group of 15-29 in the rural areas has declined to 28.8 percent in 2009-10 from 41.0 percent in 2004-05 and that of urban areas has also declined to 14.4 percent in 2009-10 from 18.4 percent in 2004-05.

(d) As per information available number of placement of job seekers belonging to other backward classes provided through Employment Exchanges during 2009 (January to December) was about 15,800.

(e & f) Government of India is fully aware of the magnitude of unemployment problem prevailing in the country particularly, among the youth and to tackle this problem, the overnment has undertaken skill development in a big way. In order to achieve this objective, the Coordinated Action Plan for Skill Development has set a target of 500 million skilled persons by the year 2022, and all concerned Ministries and Departments have been mandated to undertake skill development programmes accordingly. All the Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are being modernized. New Govt. and Private ITIs are set up to augment training capacity. A new scheme, titled Skill Development Initiative was started in 2007-08 to train one million persons in five years and then one million every year in short term modular employable skills under which cost of training and assessment is borne by Government of India. In addition, Government has also been implementing various employment generation programmes most important of which are: Swarnajayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.