

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:630
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
UNEMPLOYMENT
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

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

- (a) whether there is an alarming rise in unemployment in rural India as compared to the urban areas;
- (b) if so, the percentage increase and growth in employment generation in the rural areas, vis-a-vis urban areas, during the Tenth and Eleventh Plan periods; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas and create more jobs in rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a to c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 630 BY SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.5.2012.

(a&b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office. Last such survey was conducted during 2009-10. As per the two most recent surveys, unemployment rate estimated on current daily status basis in rural areas has declined from 8.2 per cent in 2004-05 to 6.8 per cent in 2009-10 and the corresponding rate for the urban areas has also declined from 8.3 percent to 5.8 percent during the same period, showing reduction in unemployment rates for both rural and urban areas. As against the target of creation of 50 million additional job opportunities on current daily status basis fixed under Tenth Five Year Plan, additional job opportunities of 47 million (about 27 million in rural areas and 20 million in urban areas) were generated during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 and as against the target of creation of 58 million fixed under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, additional job opportunities of around 20 million (about 5 million in rural areas and 15 million in urban areas) were generated during 2004-05 to 2009-10.

(c) Government has been making continuous efforts by focusing on creation of productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise incomes of masses to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are 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 for rural areas, such as, 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 the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.