

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4309

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015

CALCULATING RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

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

- (a) the present rate of unemployment in casual skilled and semi-skilled sectors in the country;
- (b) whether there is any decline in unemployment in the said sectors during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, sector-wise during the said period;
- (c) the methodologies being used to calculate the rate of unemployment;
- (d) whether there has been any reports of erroneous computation of the unemployment rates in the country in recent years and if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has not come up with national unemployment data on a regular basis and if so, whether the Government proposes to sponsor a new quarterly survey to provide employment estimates which may also serve as a guide for monetary and fiscal policy making; and
- (f) whether in many developed countries several data source provide regular estimates on employment market, normally on a monthly basis and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (d): Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). Last such survey was conducted during 2011-12. As per results of the two most recent surveys, unemployment rate on usual status basis in the country has increased from 2.0 per cent in 2009-10 to 2.2 per cent in 2011-12. The NSS surveys are conducted by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) uses statistical methodologies that are internationally comparable. Unemployment rate is calculated as percentage of number of unemployed persons to total labour force. Labour force includes both employed and unemployed persons. The percentage distribution of workers by status of employment is 52.2% self-employed, 17.9% regular/wage employed and 29.9% casual labour.

(e) & (f): Labour Bureau conducts Annual Household Survey on Employment and Unemployment in the country and so far four annual survey results (2009-10 to 2013-14) have been released. It also conducts quarterly Quick Employment Surveys in the selected sectors namely textiles including apparels, metals, gems & jewellery, automobiles, transport, IT/BPO, leather and handloom/power loom to assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India and so far twenty four surveys have been conducted from October, 2008 to December, 2014. In addition MOSPI has set up a Standing Committee on labour statistics comprising experts to examine various issues pertaining to availability and periodicity of labour statistics.