

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2078
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH MARCH, 2021**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2078. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking serious measures to provide adequate job opportunities to people especially women in the country; and**
(b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of schemes introduced to create job opportunities in the country and the details of the scheme, year-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (b): Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country including for women like encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, respectively. The progress of the schemes/ programmes is as follows:

| Schemes/Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Employment generated under PMEGP (No. of persons) | 533224 | 255384 (As on 31.12.2020) |
| Persondays Generated under MGNREGS(in lakh) | 26,542 | 31,748 (As on 28.01.2021) |
| Candidates placed under DDU-GKY (No. of candidates) | 150199 | 38359 (Till Jan., 2021) |

Source: Concerned Ministries

Government has taken several initiatives to improve women's participation in the labour force. In order to encourage employment of women, a number of protective provisions have been incorporated in the labour laws for creating congenial work environment for women workers. These include enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, provision for mandatory crèche facility in the establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.

Government has taken a decision to allow the employment of women in the aboveground mines including opencast workings between 7 pm and 6 am and in below ground working between 6 am and 7 pm in technical, supervisory and managerial work where continuous presence may not be required.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 now subsumed in the Code on Wages, 2019 provides that there shall be no discrimination in an establishment or any unit thereof among employees on the ground of gender in matters relating to wages by the same employer, in respect of the same work or work of similar nature done by any employee. Further, no employer shall make any discrimination on the ground of sex while recruiting any employee for the same work or work of similar nature in the conditions of employment, except where the employment of women in such work is prohibited or restricted by or under any law for the time being in force.

Further, in order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.
