GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

CLASSIFICATION OF GIG WORKERS IN PLFS

118. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

(a) whether the Government has updated the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) to distinctly classify gig and platform workers;

(b) if not, the reasons for not incorporating gig work as a separate category despite its growing scale and recognition under the Code on Social Security, 2020; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a dedicated survey module to capture the unique features of gig work such as task-based engagement, multi-app usage and algorithmic governance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)

(a) to (c): For the first time, the definition of 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' and provisions related to the same have been provided in the Code on Social Security, 2020 which has been enacted by the Parliament.

The Code provides for framing of suitable social security measures for gig workers and platform workers on matters relating to life and disability cover, accident insurance, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, etc.

As per an estimation by NITI Aayog vide its report titled "India`s Booming Gig and Platform Economy" published in June 2022, the number of gig workers and platform workers in the country was 7.7 million in 2020-21 which is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-30.

Since its launch in 2017, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO), the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been the primary source of statistics on labour force, activity participation of the population and structure of employment and unemployment in the country.

Based on the information collected in PLFS, labour force indicators, viz., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of workers by status in employment (self-employed, regular wage / salaried, casual labour), by industry (as per National Industrial Classification (NIC)) and occupation (National Classification of Occupation (NCO)) of work etc. are brought out through the PLFS publications.

No updations in the PLFS schedule has been undertaken with the objective of specifically identifying persons engaged as 'gig workers. However, all market activities i.e. activities performed for pay or profit which result in production of goods and services for exchange are included under the domain of economic activity considered in PLFS. The activity situation of a person who is found to be working or being engaged in economic activity during a specified reference period is associated with employment in PLFS. Hence, even the persons engaged as 'gig workers' for pay & profit are covered in PLFS.

The feasibility of separately identifying gig workers as defined in the Code on Social Security, 2020 in PLFS is presently not under consideration of NSO, MoSPI.

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