

**Regarding need for a statutory Urban Employment Guarantee Policy on the lines of the MGNREGA to address unemployment in urban areas-Laid**

**SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL (SANGLI):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the absence of an Employment Guarantee Scheme for Urban Areas. Data from the Periodic Labor Force Survey shows that urban unemployment remains higher than rural unemployment, with urban unemployment rates around 6.5-7 percent and unemployment rates among youth and urban females far higher, reflecting a deep structural jobs crisis in city areas. The absence of a statutory employment guarantee in urban areas leaves migrant workers, construction labourers, domestic workers, street vendors and gig workers without a basic livelihood floor during economic shocks, pandemics, or downturns in demand. Rising living costs in cities further aggravate distress, pushing vulnerable households into debt and informal, low-productivity work. I therefore urge the Honble Minister of Rural Development to address the need for a statutory Urban Employment Guarantee on the lines of the MGNREGA to provide at least 100 days of demand-driven wage employment to urban households engaged in the informal sector, prioritising women and youth, and linked to creation and maintenance of urban public assets and services such as drainage, waste management, urban greening and climate-resilience interventions and allow rural registered workers to opt for notified works within city limits.

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