

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5586
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that National Sample Survey conducted earlier revealed that productive absorption of surplus under employed labour force in the rural economy needs focus of our planning process as unemployment rate has been steadily high for the last several years; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard to generate more employment?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

a) Government is aware about the prevalence of under employment in the workforce of the country. A significant proportion of workers living below the poverty line are in need of better employment.

b) Government is tackling the problem of unemployment in its various facets. Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period with special emphasis on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services. Besides this, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been introduced in Parliament, which provides for 100 days of employment in a year for poor families in the rural areas. A food for work programme has already been launched in selected 150 backward districts of the country.