

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
REPORT ON GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

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

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- (a) Whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the latest report from the International Labour Organisation on Global Employment Trends ;
- (b) If so, the details of the remarks given in report in regard to India ; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) (b) & (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) (b) and (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.14 BY SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD AND SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU, REGARDING REPORT ON GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR REPLY ON 26-02-2007.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) : In Global Employment Trends Brief, January 2007 published by the International Labour Organisation inter-alia it has been stated that employment creation has been insufficient to absorb the growing labour force in South Asia. Even though working poverty has been dramatically reduced in the region-especially in India at 87.2 per cent, the working poor rates at the US\$2 a day level are still very high.

Literacy rates of the adult population are still very low (for example, 57.2 percent in India). More education and training would help to expand employment opportunities, increase labour productivity and allow people to work themselves out of poverty. This, in turn, would contribute to sustainable economic growth.

(c): The approach to the Tenth Plan focused on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it was listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan period and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan laid emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors, which were likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints, which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention was paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential.

The approach to the 11th Five Year Plan provides an opportunity to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. The Approach Paper to the 11th Five Year Plan contains following important policy initiatives for generation of employment:

(i) In order to make growth more inclusive, it is vital that more people gain access to more productive assets with which they can themselves generate decent incomes and also that GDP growth generates sufficient demand for wage labour so that those who can not be self-employed are employed at decent wages.

(ii) Targeting faster growth in GDP and doubling of agriculture growth will help in this process. Besides, additional employment opportunities would be generated in the services and manufacturing sectors. Measures would need be taken to boost labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear and textiles and service sectors such as tourism and construction.

(iii) Village and small scale enterprises (VSE) will provide most of the new employment opportunities during the 11th Plan.

(iv) Since 2004, an effort has been made to identify and implement reforms in administration of ITIs so as to facilitate better interaction with the industry. In order to make ITI graduates better employable, Government has decided to upgrade 500 Government ITIs into Centres of Excellence out of which 200 have already been taken up for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(iv) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) assures every rural household at least 100 days of manual work at minimum wages. Besides, Government of India continues to implement various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of these are: Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana; Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; Rural Employment Generation Programme and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana.