

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3729  
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007  
DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
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**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether reports regarding decline in employment opportunities issued by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Economic Advisory Council under the caption 'Economic Outlook for 2007-08' vary greatly; (
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether unemployment problem in the country has been almost controlled; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to completely control the problem of unemployment in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : The Report by Economic Advisory Council (EAC), has analysed the results of Employment & Unemployment Surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation, and it states that an emerging challenge is improving productivity of employment in the informal sector and in agriculture so that there is a significant improvement in the quality of employment. While press statement issued by ASSOCHAM states that Indian women have outshone men in terms of employment, growth rate with a 3.35% rise in employment between 1998 and 2004 against a fall of about 8% in case of males. It also says that the public sector has been hiring women more aggressively than the private sector.

(c)&(d) : As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the total estimated employment has gone up from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459 million in 2004-05. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities. 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 and contains important policy initiatives for generation of employment. 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; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana ; Rural Employment Generation Programme, Sampoorna Grameen