

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4563

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014

TRAINING TO ILLITERATE LABOURERS

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

- (a) the total number of illiterate and unskilled labourers in the country including the backward and disadvantaged groups;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the disparity in wages between such workers and literate/skilled labourers having better efficiency;
- (c) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government to provide education and training to such disadvantaged groups for their employability; and
- (d) the various sectors available for such trained labourers to get employment in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through the labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. As per the latest NSSO survey, the estimated number of workers as per usual status is 47.41 crore persons. The proportion of not literate workers during 2011-12 are as follows:

Proportion of not literate workers
as per NSS survey 2011-12

| | | |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Male | 27.9% | 11.2% |
| Female | 56.3% | 27.9% |

(b): Section 3 (3) (a)

(ii) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides for fixation of minimum rates of wages for different class of work in same scheduled employment. Hence, different wages are fixed on the basis of categorisation of workers viz. unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly-skilled. Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are appropriate Governments to fix, review and revise the minimum wages for different categories of workers employed in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions.

(c): Government has been implementing Skill Development Initiative (SDI) Scheme with an objective to provide training and employment to school leavers, existing workers including the backward and disadvantaged groups especially in informal sector to improve their employability in various sectors of economy. Courses are available for persons having completed 5th Standard or have functional literacy and numeracy skills.

(d): In addition to the existing public employment generation schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the government is promoting labour-intensive manufacturing sector and increasing employment opportunities by promoting tourism and agro-based industries. The 12th Five Year Plan projects 5 crore new work opportunities to be generated in the non-farm sector and provide skill certification to equivalent numbers. It has also been decided to use at least 10% of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA-SCP), Multi-sectoral Development Programme funds and 5% of Border Area Development Programme funds for skill development and enhancing employability of youth.