

CENTRE ROLLS OUT NEW SURVEY TO MAP JOB CREATION IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR

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NEW DELHI : The Union government on Sunday rolled out a nationwide survey to map employment generation in the [unorganized sector](#) and establishments deploying less than 10 workers.

The [labour bureau](#), the data and statistics wing of the Union labour ministry will collect samples from all states and present quarterly reports.

This will be the second quarterly employment survey conducted by the labour ministry.

The first survey tapped formal sector establishments employing 10 or more people. The FY22 first quarter results have been made public. The results of the present survey, the Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES), will be out by December. The Union government is in favour of evidence-based policymaking and data from both the formal and informal sectors will be helpful, said labour and employment minister Bhupender Yadav.

"The Union minister flagged off the field work of AFES at Shram Bureau Bhawan, Chandigarh, today on the occasion of 101st Foundation Day of labour bureau. Data on all aspects of labour is crucial and scientifically collected data is the bedrock of any evidence-based policymaking, the minister said," according to the labour ministry. "With the increasing importance of data, coupled with India being a labour abundant nation, a dedicated organization for labour and price statistics such as the labour bureau merits strengthening and full support."

From the first quarter of FY23, AFES and the Quarterly Employment Survey are likely to be merged to present one report where job creation numbers in both the formal and informal sectors will be presented together.

"A holistic view on jobs sector and employment generation will be beneficial in policymaking and in having a clear picture of the labour market. Both the quarterly surveys put together will collect data from around 150,000 small, medium, large and very large establishments" said a government official. "Like the previous survey, the informal sector survey has also been designed by veteran labour economist and statistician S.P. Mukherjee," he said.

Led by technology-related jobs, employment in nine key sectors including manufacturing, IT and financial services grew at an average annual pace of 3.42% since 2014, the labour ministry had said last week on the basis of the results of a quarterly government survey that was revived after nearly four years. The estimates that follow a survey of 10,900 establishments showed that these sectors, including manufacturing, technology, financial services and trade, employed 30.8 million people at the end of June, up 29% from 23.7 million at the end of March 2014, when the survey was last conducted.

On Sunday, the minister also held discussions with Haryana labour minister Anoop Dhanak, and labour secretaries and officials from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh on the progress of registration in the unorganized sector database. Over 25 million informal sector workers have registered in the database since 26 August, when it was set up.

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