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Quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey

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Why in News

Recently, the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the **quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for October-December 2019.

This dataset differs from the **Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey**, which covers **both rural and urban areas**. However, unemployment data for urban areas is released quarterly.

Key Points

- **Unemployment Rate:**

- It eased in urban areas to 7.9% in October-December 2019 compared to 9.9% in October-December 2018.

However, state-wise data showed that **urban unemployment rate was higher than the national average** in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Female unemployment rate** decreased to 9.8% in October-December 2019 compared to 12.3% in October-December 2018.
- **Male unemployment rate** moderated to 7.3% in October-December 2019 from 9.2% in October-December 2018.

- **Labour Force Participation Rate:**

It rose to 37.2% in October-December 2019 from 36.3% in October-December 2018.

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**
 - PLFS is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
 - It has been constituted based on the recommendation of a committee headed by **Amitabh Kundu**.
 - PLFS has two fold objective:
 - To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. **Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate**) in the **short time interval of three months** for the **urban areas only** in the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**.
 - To estimate **employment and unemployment indicators** in both **usual status** and **CWS** in both **rural and urban areas annually**.
 - Before PLFS, the NSSO (previous name of NSO) used to bring the data related to **employment and unemployment** based on its **quinquennial (every 5 year) household socio-economic survey programme**.

Key Terms

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Activity Status:** The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period.
 - **Usual Status:** The activity status determined on the basis of the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of survey, it is **known as the usual activity status** of the person.
 - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of the last 7 days preceding the date of survey is **known as the current weekly status (CWS)** of the person.

National Statistical Office

- NSO is the **central statistical agency of the Government** mandated under the **Statistical Services Act 1980** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for **providing statistical information services** to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
 - The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.
 - All business operations in NSO are done in compliance with **international standards, procedures and best practices.**

Source: IE