



Datuk Seri M. Saravanan

RM18b ALLOCATION

## Wage Subsidy Programme saved 2.9m jobs

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Wage Subsidy Programme, with an allocation of RM18 billion through the Social Security Organisation (Socso), saved 2.9 million employees from losing their jobs and helped more than 300,000 employers.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan said the programme was a good approach to assist employers and employees affected by the Movement

Control Order (MCO) and was well-received by the group.

"Since the first week of the MCO, the programme has become popular among employees.

"There was a great demand for it from the industry, with the government ensuring there was a sufficient allocation for the three phases of the MCO," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Saravanan was responding to a supplementary question from

Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (PH-Kulim Bandar Bharu), who wanted to know the impact of the RM18 billion allocation for the programme.

It was reported that Socso had disbursed more than RM18 billion in wage subsidies, job search allowances and hiring incentives through seven stimulus packages up to Sept 6.

Responding to the original question from Datuk Seri Abdul

Azeet Abdul Rahim (BN-Baling) on the number of unemployed people, Saravanan said based on the Labour Force Survey Report issued by the Department of Statistics for the second quarter of this year, the unemployment rate was 4.8 per cent, or 768,700 people.

However, he said in July, the number of unemployed had increased by 9,800 to 778,500 people. **Bernama**