

Unemployment rate higher among women



The unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2013 was reported at 4.4 percent according to the latest statistics released by the Department of Census and Statistics.

The report said that when sampling error is considered

there is no statistically significant drop of unemployment rates reported over a one-year period from the second quarter 2012. The number of unemployed people was estimated at about 390,975 during the second quarter 2013.

General characteristics of unemployment in Sri Lanka remained unchanged during the period under review and unemployment among women and educated youth is higher. [See B&F IV](#)



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Women entrepreneurs present... Continued from B&F I

The women entrepreneurs presented a series of proposals to the President on how their contribution could be effectively used for the development of the country.

Use of new technology for industries, organising district level exhibitions for trade promotion, loans at concessionary terms and relief in the registration of their enterprises were among the proposals they submitted.

SME women entrepreneurs representing the food processing, livestock and fresh milk, handicraft, batik and garment manufacture, coir products, sculpture and ornamental fish were present.

The President said that the people were facing tremendous difficulties as decisions taken during discussions in Colombo were not put into action properly at the rural level. It is the responsibility of ministry officials to visit villages and look into it.

The President said that a large number of women had lost their jobs as a result of crises in some SME sectors. Handloom industries were shut down in the past. Jobs in cottage industries for women have declined and government has taken steps to restore them. The Government is ready to support women entrepreneurs to develop their existing ventures and launch new industries exploiting to the maximum available resources in the villages.