



Parliament Questions and Replies of Interim Budget Session, 2024

Interim Budget Session, 2024

Sl. No.	LS/RS	Date	Admitted Q. No.	Provisional Q. No.	Subject	Page No.
1	LS	05.02.2024	Starred *26	Starred 411	Reconstitution of EPFO Board	3
2	LS	05.02.2024	355	1054	Increase in EPF Pension	5
3	LS	05.02.2024	433	691	Financial Assistance to State of Odisha	7
4	RS	08.02.2024	726	S19, S61, U33, U73	Increasing minimum pension in EPF Pension scheme	12
5	RS	08.02.2024	732	S1375	Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana	14
6	RS	08.02.2024	753	U1282	Formal job creation	15



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

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 26
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

RECONSTITUTION OF EPFO BOARD

***26. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:
DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has reconstituted EPFO Board recently;**
- (b) whether there are three Members from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and only one Member each from Hind Mazdoor Sabha, CITU, Trade Union Coordination Centre, Self-Employed Women's Association and National Front of Indian Trade Unions;**
- (c) the reasons for non-representation of AITUC and INTUC which are representatives of employees in the EPFO Board;**
- (d) whether the Government has proposed to appoint Members from AITUC and INTUC in the EPFO Board; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.



STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024 BY DR. G. RANJITH REDDY AND DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI HON'BLE MPs REGARDING 'RECONSTITUTION OF EPFO BOARD'.

(a) to (e): In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 (19 of 1952), the Central Government, vide Notification No. S.O. 156(E) dated 12.01.2024, has constituted the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF).

Section 5A(1)(e) of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 provides for appointment of maximum ten persons representing employees in the CBT, EPF. In the newly constituted CBT, EPF, three persons have been nominated from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and one person each has been nominated from Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC), Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and National Front of Indian Trade Unions (NFITU). Further, two slots have been kept vacant for representatives of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC). The nomination of representatives of INTUC has not been made in the newly constituted CBT, EPF considering pending court cases among the factions of INTUC.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

INCREASE IN EPF PENSION

355. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

- (a) whether Government has received demands from stakeholders like trade unions, public representatives for increase in the minimum amount of EPF pension;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to will revise pension calculation formula since the present one is arbitrary and biased against pensioners under EPF 95 scheme; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (d): Representations have been received from various stakeholders including trade unions and public representatives to increase the minimum pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 from existing Rs. 1000/- per month.

The EPS, 1995 is a "Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit" Social Security Scheme. The corpus of the Employees' Pension Fund is made up of (i) contribution by the employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages; and (ii) contribution from Central Government through budgetary support @ 1.16 per cent of wages up to an amount of Rs.15,000/- per month. All benefits under the scheme are paid out of such accumulations. The fund is valued annually as mandated under paragraph 32 of the EPS, 1995 and as per the valuation of the fund as on 31.03.2019, there is an actuarial deficit.

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Amount of member's pension under the Scheme is determined taking into account the pensionable period of service and pensionable salary as per following formula:

Pensionable Service X Pensionable Salary

70

However, the Government, for the first time, in the year 2014, provided a minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month to the pensioners under the EPS, 1995 by providing budgetary support, which was in addition to the budgetary support of 1.16 per cent of wages provided annually towards EPS to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 433
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE OF ODISHA

433. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:

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

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided to State Government of Odisha including Districts Kalahandi and Nuapada during last nine years and current year, scheme-wise, project-wise and if State and District financial assistance are not available, provide the details of financial assistance to Pan India;**
- (b) the number of beneficiaries in Odisha and above said districts during the last nine years and current year;**
- (c) the details of beneficiaries in Odisha and above said districts who benefited through DBT during the last nine years, scheme-wise; and**
- (d) the additional financial assistance and others assistance provided to Odisha for daily wagers during Corona Pandemic?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) & (b): All the schemes of Ministry of Labour and Employment are Central Sector Scheme. However, the details of financial assistance provided to State Government of Odisha and the number of beneficiaries in Odisha during last nine years and current year, scheme-wise are at Annexure-I.

(c): The details of beneficiaries in Odisha who benefited through DBT during last nine years are at Annexure-II.

(d): The Government of India had announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid-19. Under this package, the Government provided fiscal stimulus of more than Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Crore. This package comprised of various long term schemes / programmes / policies for making the Country self-reliant and to create employment opportunities.



ANNEXURE-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 433 FOR 05.02.2024 REGARDING “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE OF ODISHA”**

National Career Service (NCS): The details of funds released to State of Odisha during the last nine years and current year including Kalahandi and Nuapada districts are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakh)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
28.54	36.82	280.67	50.00	11.92	84.61	0.00	9.51	174.50	3.32*

*as on 30.01.2024

The number of beneficiaries in Odisha including Kalahandi and Nuapada districts during the last nine years and current year is as follows:

Jobseekers

Year	Odisha	Kalahandi	Nuapada
2014-2015	-	-	-
2015-2016	16,149	104	23
2016-2017	13,538	161	56
2017-2018	41,742	241	140
2018-2019	22,198	425	112
2019-2020	59,647	424	313
2020-2021	70,035	1,046	511
2021-2022	1,49,066	6,542	1,554
2022-2023	1,02,992	4,046	1,025
2023-2024 (till 28.01.2024)	1,37,731	5,072	2,301
Total	6,13,098	18,061	6,035

Employers

Year	Odisha	Kalahandi	Nuapada
2014-2015	-	-	-
2015-2016	8	-	-
2016-2017	6	-	-
2017-2018	20	-	-
2018-2019	29	-	-
2019-2020	1,193	15	2
2020-2021	1,324	1	2
2021-2022	827	1	1
2022-2023	20,928	553	176
2023-2024 (till 28.01.2024)	29,563	854	213
Total	53,898	1,424	394

Independent Counsellors

Year	Odisha	Kalahandi	Nuapada
2014-2015	-	-	-
2015-2016	16	-	-
2016-2017	14	-	-
2017-2018	16	1	-
2018-2019	42	2	-
2019-2020	34	-	-
2020-2021	64	3	2
2021-2022	693	20	9
2022-2023	94	2	2
2023-2024 (till 28.01.2024)	60	3	1
Total	1,033	31	14

Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY): As the ABRY is a PAN INDIA scheme, therefore, no financial assistance provided to any State Government directly. The amount of benefit and number of beneficiaries in Odisha, as on 19.01.2024, are as follows:

Amount of Benefit (Rs.)	Number of Beneficiary Establishments	Number of Beneficiary Employees
201,55,76,407/-	4,195	89,357

Source: EPFO.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY): The amount of subsidy disbursed and number of beneficiaries in Odisha, as on 31.03.2022, are as follows:

Subsidy Disbursed under PMRPY (Rs.)	Establishments Benefitted	Beneficiaries Benefitted
124,54,96,959/-	3,003	1,42,341

Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer: This is a demand-driven scheme where funds are provided to concerned State / UT Governments on receipt of proposals from them. The details of funds provided to the State Government of Odisha, as per demand received from them, and number of beneficiaries during last nine years and current financial year are as follows:

Year	Funds Provided (Rs. in Lakh)	Number of Beneficiaries (Number of Bonded Labourer rescued)
2014-15	0	0
2015-16	0	0
2016-17	25.80	258
2017-18	74.20	742
2018-19	0	0
2019-20	0	0
2020-21	0	0
2021-22	0	0
2022-23	0	0
2023-24 (as on 30.01.2024)	0	0
Total	100.00	1,000

National Child Labour Project (NCLP): The number of children who were rescued / withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under the scheme during the last 10 years in the State of Odisha is as follows:

FY	Number of Beneficiaries
2013-14	6,114
2014-15	21,315
2015-16	1,900
2016-17	0
2017-18	0
2018-19	0
2019-20	6
2020-21	495
2021-22	76
2022-23	1,415
Total	31,321

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 433 FOR 05.02.2024 REGARDING “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE OF ODISHA”

National Career Service Centres (NCSC) for SC/STs: It is a Central Sector scheme under which state funding is not available. The details of beneficiaries in Odisha including Kalahandi and Nuapada districts who benefited through DBT during last nine years are as follows:

FY	Total
2015-16	210
2016-17	210
2017-18	210
2018-19	210
2019-20	110
2020-21	185
2021-22	0
2022-23	475
2023-24 (till 28.01.2024)	245
Total	1,855

Benefitted through DBT in Kalahandi and Nuapada:

District Name	Number of Trainees	FY	Scheme
Kalahandi	40	2018-19	“O” Level Software
Nuapada	Nil	Nil	Nil

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 726
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024**

INCREASING MINIMUM PENSION IN EPF PENSION SCHEME

**726. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is receiving demands from stakeholders like trade unions, public representatives for increasing the minimum pension in the EPF Pension Scheme;**
- (b) if so, the demands of the stakeholders in brief;**
- (c) the response of Government thereto;**
- (d) whether Government would consider positively the hike in minimum pension for the EPF subscribers, in view of rise in the cost of living index and hike in wages;**
- (e) if so, by when it is expected to be announced;**
- (f) whether pension calculation formula will be revised since the present one is arbitrary and biased against pensioners; and**
- (g) if so, Government's response thereto?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (g): Representations have been received from various stakeholders including trade unions and public representatives to increase the minimum pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 from existing Rs. 1000/- per month.

The EPS, 1995 is a "Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit" Social Security Scheme. The corpus of the Employees' Pension Fund is made up of (i) contribution by the employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages; and (ii) contribution from Central Government through budgetary support @ 1.16 per cent of wages up to an amount of Rs.15,000/- per month. All benefits under the scheme are paid out of

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such accumulations. The fund is valued annually as mandated under paragraph 32 of the EPS, 1995 and as per the valuation of the fund as on 31.03.2019, there is an actuarial deficit.

Amount of member's pension under the Scheme is determined taking into account the pensionable period of service and pensionable salary as per following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Pensionable Service} \times \text{Pensionable Salary}}{70}$$

However, the Government, for the first time, in the year 2014, provided a minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month to the pensioners under the EPS, 1995 by providing budgetary support, which was in addition to the budgetary support of 1.16 per cent of wages provided annually towards EPS to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 732
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2024
ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA**

732. SHRI R. DHARMAR :

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), if so, the details of progress made so far, year-wise within the State of Tamil Nadu;**
- (b) the number of beneficiaries under the ABRY in the State of Tamil Nadu;**
- (c) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned and released under ABRY in the State of Tamil Nadu so far along with the achievement made in providing employment to the youth of the country;**
- (d) whether Government proposes to revise the eligibility conditions under ABRY to make it more beneficial; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be implemented?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (e): The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was 31.03.2022. The beneficiaries registered upto 31.03.2022 will continue to receive the benefits for 2 years from the date of registration under the scheme. There is no specific State-wise allocation of funds under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY). As on 19.01.2024, total benefits have been provided to 60.49 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme in the country. The number of benefitted establishments, beneficiary employees and amount disbursed (Rs. In Crore) for the State of Tamil Nadu is given below:

Year	No. of Beneficiary Establishments	No. of Beneficiary Employees	Amount disbursed (Rs. In Crore)
2020-21	6038	170388	38.92
2021-22	9109	568104	469.99
2022-23	1558	77627	541.18
2023-24 (Till 19.01.2024)	56	1935	128.09
Total	16761	818054	1178.18



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 753
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024**

FORMAL JOB CREATION

753. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

- (a) detailed State-wise data on formal job creation in the country according to the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) for the past five years;**
- (b) whether there has been a noticeable decline in the rate of formal job creation during this period;**
- (c) if so, reasons and factors contributing to this trend; and**
- (d) the steps which Government is taking to ensure more formal job creation?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) to (c): The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable on the factories and establishments employing 20 or more persons engaged in any of the 197 class of establishments/schedule of industries and employees with monthly EPF wages up to Rs.15,000/- only are statutorily required to be enrolled as members. The number of members registered under Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the past five years, is under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Contributory Members (in crore)
1.	2018-19	4.69
2.	2019-20	5.54
3.	2020-21	5.93
4.	2021-22	6.42
5.	2022-23	6.85

Contd..2/-



(d): Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the Government. Accordingly, the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment in the country.

The Government of India has announced Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to provide stimulus to business and to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid-19. Under this package, the Government has provided fiscal stimulus of more than Rupees Twenty Seven lakh crore.

The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) was launched with effect from 1st October, 2020 to incentivize employers for creation of new employment and restoration of loss of employment during Covid-19 pandemic. The terminal date for registration of beneficiaries was 31.03.2022. Since inception of the scheme, till 19.01.2024, benefits have been provided to 60.49 lakhs beneficiaries under the scheme.

The Government is implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) since June 01, 2020 to facilitate collateral free working capital loan to street vendors to restart their businesses, which were adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. As on 31.01.2024, 83.67 lakh loans have been sanctioned under the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched by the Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. Upto 26.01.2024, 46.16 crore loans were sanctioned under the scheme.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is being implemented by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, for a period of 5 years starting from 2021-22 which have potential for creating 60 lakh new jobs.

PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by seven engines, namely, Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure. This approach is powered by Clean Energy and Sabka Prayas leading to huge job and entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

Contd..3/-



The Government of India is encouraging various projects involving substantial investment and public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. for employment generation. The Government is implementing a programme for skilling of rural youth for entrepreneurship development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs).

Further, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to enhance the employability of youth.

Besides these initiatives, various flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Start-up India, Stand-up India, Digital India, Housing for All etc. are also oriented towards generating employment opportunities.
