

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 896
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.11.2016**

BENEFITS TO WORKERS IN MORE SECTORS UNDER ESIC AND EPF

896. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government is planning to extend benefits under the ESIC and EPF for construction workers, auto and cycle-rickshaw drivers, Anganwadi and ASHA workers in a phased manner; and**
(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) & (b): So far as benefits under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme are concerned, the ESI Corporation has already launched/approved two separate schemes to provide medical facilities to selected category of self-employed workers like Auto-rickshaw drivers and domestic workers and their family members on pilot basis at Delhi/Hyderabad. Construction workers in offices of the construction agency situated in the implemented areas were already covered under ESI Scheme. Subsequently, w.e.f. 01.08.2015, ESI Scheme has also been extended to the construction site workers deployed in implemented areas.

With regard to Employees Provident Fund, the EPF & MP Act, 1952 is applicable to notified industry/establishment employing 20 or more persons. Auto-rickshaw drivers generally fall under unorganized sector and majority of them are self-employed persons. The said Act has been extended to establishments engaged in Building and Construction Industries w.e.f. 31.10.1980. The workers engaged by these establishments are extended EPF benefits subject to the provisions of EPF & MP Act, 1952.

Further, for extending the social security benefits to Scheme workers like Anganwadi, ASHA and Mid-day Meal workers, a Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Labour & Employment).

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.11.2016**

ESI AND EPF FACILITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

**897. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:
SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to provide ESI and EPF facilities for construction workers also;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) by which time the Act will come into force?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) to (c): ESI Act, 1948 applies to factories/establishments with 10 or more persons employed in implemented areas and as such construction workers in the offices of the construction agency situated in the implemented areas were already covered under ESI Scheme. Subsequently, w.e.f. 01.08.2015, the ESI Scheme has also been extended to the construction site workers deployed in implemented areas.

With effect from 31.10.1980, Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been made applicable to establishments employing 20 or more persons which are engaged in Building & Construction Industry.

The workers covered under Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 get benefits under Employees' Provident Funds Schemes, 1952, Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 & Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1056
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.11.2016)

REFORMS IN FUNCTIONING OF ADMINISTRATION

1056. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is imperative to bring about major reforms in the functioning of Government services to extend the proper benefit of development of the country to all the sections of the society, if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (b) whether economically weakest sections of society are not getting the benefits due to shortcomings in the functioning of administration at the Central and State level in the country and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Government is committed to ensure that benefits of development reach all sections of the society including the weaker sections. Wherever any constraints are perceived, remedial action is taken on priority. The reforms in the functioning of Government services are a continuous ongoing process. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, e-Governance based services, Digital India, Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG, (DBT), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Swachh Vidyalaya, Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, Atal Pension Yojna etc. are some of the recent initiatives in this direction.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.11.2016)

UPLOADING OF GOVERNMENT DATA FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY

1058. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Government data have not yet been digitized and uploaded for public scrutiny, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether complaints have been received by Government regarding non-disclosure of information; and
- (c) if so, the details of number of complaints regarding non-disclosure, region-wise, over the past three years?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): The work of digitization of records in the Government of India is a continuous exercise and the process of digitization takes place in a phased manner. The Government takes all necessary initiatives to ensure that maximum data are available on public domain for dissemination of information. The RTI Act also provides for suo-moto disclosure of information on Websites by all public authorities of the country. The Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW), 2009 also provides for uploading of 115 parameters based information by all Government offices in the country on their websites and also provides for their regular updation. The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions does not maintain any centralized information regarding complaints relating to non-disclosure of information in all the Government offices of the country.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1701
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016**

RATIONALISATION OF LABOUR LAWS

1701. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to rationalise the Labour Laws and establish into Codes; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) & (b): The Second National Commission which submitted its Report in 2002 had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four or five Labour Codes on functional basis. Accordingly, the Ministry has initiated steps for drafting four Labour Codes on Wages; Industrial Relations; Social Security & Welfare; and Safety and Working Conditions, by simplifying, amalgamating and rationalizing the relevant provisions of the existing Central Labour Laws.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2500
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2016**

REVIEW OF EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

2500. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any review/proposes to review the existing Employees' Provident Fund Scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof along with the follow-up action taken thereon;**
- (c) whether Government has received any representations/proposals from various stakeholders in this regard; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) & (b): Review of Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952 is an ongoing process based on the changing socio-economic scenario.

(c) & (d): Representations from various stakeholders are received for review/amendment of EPF Scheme, 1952. The suggestions so received are considered while carrying out amendment to the Scheme.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2016**

PLEDGING OF PF FOR BUYING LOW COST HOUSES

3124. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that EPFO may introduce a scheme to allow its over four crore subscribers to pledge their Provident Fund to buy low cost houses and use the account to pay equated monthly instalments;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the proposal has been before the EPFO Trustee meeting held recently; and**
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) & (b): No such decision has been taken. As per the extant provisions of Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, members can withdraw from the Fund for purchase of dwelling house/flat. Besides, monthly installments for repayment of loans from the amounts standing to the credit of the member may also be paid on behalf of the member to the Government or housing agency concerned.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the Question above.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2016**

SETTLEMENT PENDING CASES OF EPF

3126. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of EPF applications are pending for settlement;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the number of cases pending as on date; and**
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to settle the cases for early payment?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

(a) to (c): As on 09.12.2016, a total of 1.43 lakh Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) claims are pending with Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) for settlement.

As per the provisions of paragraph 72(7) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, claims complete in all respects, are to be settled within 20 days. Therefore, at any given point of time, fresh receipt upto 20 days may be pending for settlement. However, claims which are pending during 20 days are settled in the same cycle of settlement. 97.26 per cent of total claims are settled within 20 days.

(d): The following steps have been taken by EPFO for speedy settlement of claims:

Contd..2/-

- (i) EPFO has allotted a unique Universal Account Number (UAN) to its members for portability and consolidation of all previous accounts. The employees whose details like Aadhaar Number or Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Bank Account Numbers have been seeded in their UAN and whose UAN have been activated by their employers, may submit claim forms directly to the EPFO without attestation of their employers.**
- (ii) Online Transfer Claim Portal (OTCP) has been introduced to facilitate seamless transfer of claims.**
- (iii) The process of settlement has been simplified and certain manual processes have been done away with.**
- (iv) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and Core Banking Solutions have been introduced for provident fund payments. Over 99.50 per cent of all payments, including monthly pension payments, are effected electronically.**
- (v) An online grievance redressal system (EPFiGMS) and Facilitation Centers have been opened to address members' grievances at Regional & Sub-Regional Offices. Efforts are made to resolve the grievances within 20 days.**

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2016**

RESTRUCTURING OF EPFO

***235. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:**

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to restructure the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) by creating certain new zones;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether Government also proposes to bring the rural, semi-urban unorganised and contract workers in the fold of EPFO social security and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to increase the EPFO subscriber base?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.235 FOR 7.12.2016 BY SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY REGARDING RESTRUCTURING IN EPFO.

(a) & (b):- The Central Board, EPF in its 213th Meeting held on 08th July, 2016 has approved the proposal of Organizational and Cadre Restructuring in EPFO. In the said proposal, Central Board has approved 11 new zonal offices. No decision has been taken by the Government.

(c):- The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act, 1952 is applicable to all establishments employing 20 or more workers and engaged in industries mentioned in Schedule-I of the Act irrespective of whether employed in urban, semi-urban, other areas or a worker covered is a contract worker. A worker is not considered an unorganized worker as per The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 if he is covered under EPF&MP Act, 1952.

(d):- In order to increase the EPFO subscriber base, from time to time coverage drives and workers enrolment drives are conducted. Central Analysis and Intelligence Unit has been established in Employees' Provident Fund Organization, Head Office which is providing Information Technology (IT) driven information to field offices to secure the coverage of uncovered establishments and members.
