

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1346
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2012**

UNCLAIMED FUNDS UNDER EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND

1346. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

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

- (a) whether nearly Rs. 2000 crores of funds under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) are still unclaimed or not distributed to the beneficiaries;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken any action to distribute the unclaimed funds to the beneficiaries or their heirs;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a): There is no unclaimed fund lying with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. However, some accounts are treated as 'Inoperative Accounts'. Inoperative Account has been defined in para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952 as "any account where contribution is not received continuously for thirty six months". All such Inoperative Accounts have a definite claimant.

(b) to (d): Details of Inoperative accounts, as per Annual Account (unaudited) of the Organisation for the year 2011-12, Rs. 22,636.57 Crore.

Steps taken to get the claims from the PF members or their legal heirs so as to settle the claims of such inoperative accounts inter alia include:

(i) Publicity through print and electronic media is made to educate the members to file their claims for settlement.

(ii) The employers and employees unions are requested from time to time to advise the members to file their claims for settlement.

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1350
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2012

EPF BENEFICIARIES IN THE COUNTRY

†1350. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the total number of Employees Provident Fund's pension beneficiaries in the country and amount of pension being paid to them from exchequer; and
- (b) whether Government will abide by its old promise to enhance their pension amount and if so, by when it is likely to be materialised?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a): As on 31.03.2012, total number of beneficiaries under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 are 41.03 lakhs and the amount of pension paid to these pensioners by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is Rs. 4475.45 crores.

(b): A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), a sub-Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1356
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2012**

UNCLAIMED MONEY IN EPFO

1356. DR. V. MAITREYAN:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of the unclaimed money to the tune of ` 4000 crores lying deposited in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);
- (b) whether Government has planned to amend laws and utilize these unclaimed money for the developmental activities of the EPFO in the respective States/Union Territories;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to given this unclaimed EPF money to the rightful people or legal heirs of those employees; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by Government to utilize the unclaimed money for the developmental works in the country in the respective States?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a): There is no unclaimed fund lying with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. However, some accounts are treated as 'Inoperative Accounts'. Inoperative Account has been defined in para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952 as "any account where contribution is not received continuously for thirty six months". All such Inoperative Accounts have a definite claimant.

State-wise details of money in Inoperative Accounts are Annexed.

(b): The Government does not have any plan to utilize the money under inoperative account for developmental activities of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. The Employees' Provident Fund Organization, being the trustee of the Fund, maintains individual member's account are paid to the members on application. Thus, the amount lying in the Inoperative Account cannot be utilized except for the settlement of the member's account.

Contd..2/-

(c) & (d): Steps taken to get the claims from the PF members or their legal heirs so as to settle the claims of such inoperative accounts inter-alia include:-

- (i) Publicity through print and electronic media made to educate the members to file their claims for settlement.**
- (ii) The employers and employees unions are requested from time to time to advise the members to file their claims for settlement.**

There is no plan to utilize the unclaimed money for the developmental works in the country.

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) ON RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1356 FOR 05.12.2012 BY DR. V. MAITREYAN REGARDING UNCLAIMED MONEY IN EPFO.

State-wise funds lying in Inoperative Accounts of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) as on 31-03-2012

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No.	State	Inoperative Account
1	Andhra Pradesh	17,97,39,02,591.84
2	Bihar	2,04,20,94,013.03
3	Chattisgarh	3,42,35,84,845.00
4	Delhi	6,65,86,281.59
5	Goa	1,20,84,28,156.00
6	Gujarat	10,12,41,55,061.50
7	Haryana	10,61,85,00,759.60
8	Himachal Pradesh	1,78,08,96,689.00
9	Jharkhand	5,03,214.65
10	Karnataka	11,74,20,62,951.16
11	Kerala	22,13,645.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	4,88,79,70,699.00
13	Maharashtra	74,27,35,05,726.96
14	North East Region	1,73,72,36,367.00
15	Orissa	2,82,49,38,418.00
16	Punjab	16,60,18,53,041.37
17	Rajasthan	7,44,47,13,410.50
18	Tamil Nadu	24,33,41,90,698.93
19	Uttarakhand	1,42,52,75,602.43
20	Uttar Pradesh	20,51,93,35,603.32
21	West Bengal	13,33,37,73,357.83
TOTAL		2,26,36,57,21,133.71

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2656
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2012
SOCIAL SECURITY FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS**

**2656. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:
SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO:
SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE:**

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

- (a) the details of total number of workers working in Industrial establishments, Bricks Industry and Tea Gardens in different parts of the country;**
- (b) whether the Government has decided to extend social security scheme like Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), gratuity and pension facilities to all such workers;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a): Statistics on workers working in Industrial Establishment, Brick Industry and Tea Gardens are not maintained centrally.

(b) to (d): Industrial Establishments, Bricks Industry and Tea Gardens are included in schedule-I of Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and, therefore within the ambit of this Act. The social security benefits in the form of Provident Fund, Pension and Deposit-Linked Insurance are extended to all workers who are working in the covered establishments and enrolled as members.

While the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is applicable to Industrial Establishments, the same has already been extended to cover Brick Industries situated in Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) implemented area. However, there is no proposal with ESIC to extend benefit of Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 to plantation workers in Tea Gardens.

The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is applicable to all the employees working in every factory, mine oilfield, plantation, port, Railway Company, shop or other establishment employing ten or more persons and is not applicable to employees of Central and State Governments who are governed by any other Act or by any rules providing for payment of gratuity.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2713
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2012**

OUTSTANDING EPF/ESIC AMOUNT AGAINST HOTELS

**†2713. SHRI NARAYANSINGH AMLABE:
SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:**

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

- (a) the details of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) amount outstanding against the five star hotels in Delhi including closed textile mills in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) the number of cases registered and prosecution made in this regard during the said period on the said defaulters, year-wise; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to give relief to the affected employees engaged in such hotels and textile mills?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a): There is no amount outstanding with regard to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) against any five star hotel in Delhi. However, details of outstanding ESI dues in respect of five star hotels in Delhi are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Outstanding Amount (Rs. In lakh)
1	2009-10	13.87
2.	2010-11	13.87
3.	2011-12	13.87
4.	Current year (up to Nov., 2012)	13.99

Details of amount outstanding against closed textile mills in Madhya Pradesh in respect of EPFO for the last three years including current year are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Outstanding Amount (Rs. In lakh)
1.	2009-10	1737.85
2.	2010-11	562.49
3.	2011-12	42.32
4.	Current year (up to Nov., 2012)	27.12

Contd..2/-

Details of amount outstanding against closed textile mills in Madhya Pradesh in respect of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for the last three years including current year are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount	Remarks
1.	2009-10	437.14	1. Six units are closed and claims have been raised with the Official Liquidator. 2. Two units are under BIFR and are State Textiles Corporation units. 3. Two units are closed which are not under BIFR. 4. Four units are closed and are under NTC CPSU. 5. Three units for which rehabilitation scheme has been sanctioned by BIFR. 6. Two units are closed and are registered under BIFR. No scheme is sanctioned.
2.	2010-11	450.74	
3.	2011-12	462.50	
4.	Current Year upto Nov., 2012	470.67	

(b): As regard closed textile mills, no case has been registered and prosecutions made against the mills for default of EPF dues during the last three years and current year upto 30.11.2012.

So far as ESIC dues are concerned, no case has been registered and prosecution made by ESIC against five star hotels in Delhi. However, five cases were registered against closed textile mills out of which three cases have been decided.

(c): Action has been taken against establishments under section 8B to 8G of Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for early recovery of dues. This includes attachment of movable and immovable property, arrest of employers, etc. The payment of Provident Fund to employees of the closed defaulting textile mills is being made from the Special Reserve Fund of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

The employees covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 are entitled to benefits based on contribution paid or payable.

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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2131
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2012**

INVESTMENT BY EPFO IN EQUITIES

2131. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation** is considering investment in equities as funds earning 12 per cent annually in the **National Pension System** do;
- (b) how much **EPFO** has invested in private sector, blue chip manufacturing companies; and
- (c) how **Government** would ensure that 5 crore subscribers are not punished with low returns for no fault of theirs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a): **No, Sir.**

(b): **As on 31.10.2012, the total of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) corpus invested in private sector is Rs. 26,896.54 Crore including Rs. 4.05 Crore investments in blue chip manufacturing companies.**

(c): **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) ensure security of the capital contributed by the beneficiaries with risk free, consistent return on the same.**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2134
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2012**

AMENDMENT IN EPF PENSION SCHEME

2134. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to bring amendment in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Pension Scheme to enhance the quantum of monthly pension as the benefit in other scheme is highest than the present pension scheme and also increase the coverage limit to Rs. 15,000 per month and reduce the number of workers to 5 instead of 20 for coverage; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b): A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), a Sub-Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government. The issue of enhancing wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 has been discussed in meetings of Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. However, Government is yet to take a final view in the matter.

There is no proposal to reduce the number of workers to 5 instead of 20 for coverage under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2012**

**UNDERPERFORMANCE OF RETURNS OF EPFO *VIS-À-VIS* OTHER
SCHEMES**

2901. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the returns of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has underperformed compared to other pension schemes like New Pension Scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether any external agency has studied the management practices of EPFO and suggested any improvements;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a) & (b): Returns on Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) fund cannot be compared with return on other Pension Schemes like New Pension Scheme (NPS) because of difference in investment and accounting policies.

(c) to (e): A study has been entrusted to National Productivity Council for developing norms for opening of new offices of EPFO.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2904
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2012

PF CASES AWAITING SETTLEMENT

2904. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Provident Fund (PF) cases have been awaiting settlement and facing innumerable problems in their settlement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases pending for settlement and the obstacles being faced in the settlement;
- (d) whether Government has issued any guidelines for sorting out their problems; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) to (c): As on 13.12.2012 (for the period from 01.04.2012 to 13.12.2012), out of 107.16 Lakh claims received for settlement order, only 6.96 Lakh claims are pending for settlement.

The obstacles faced in settlement of claims inter-alia include:

- (i) Incomplete claims (no bank account number, incomplete employee details, etc.)
- (ii) Incorrect claims (wrong account number, incorrect personal details, etc.)
- (iii) Unattested claims
- (iv) Unsigned claims
- (v) Default by employer in terms of remittance/returns

(d) & (e): As per the provisions contained in para 72(7) of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, all claims found in order are to be settled within 30 days. Employees of the covered establishments are guided through print media, seminar & training of the employers for submitting error free claims.

Instructions have been issued to field offices to monitor the status of settlement of claims in their region on regular basis and take corrective steps to settle the claims within the stipulated time-frame

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2905
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2012**

EPF SUBSCRIBERS GETTING MEAGER PENSION OF Rs. 1000

2905. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Employees Provident Fund (EPF) pensioners are getting only a meager amount as pension well below Rs. 1000/- per mensem;**
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of the EPF pensioners who are getting below Rs. 1000/- per mensem as pension; and**
- (c) whether Government will consider giving Rs. 1000/- as minimum pension to all EPF pensioners per mensem with retrospective effect from 1 April, 2012?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b): The State-wise details of pensioners who are getting pension less than Rs. 1000/- per month is annexed.

(c): A proposal to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs.1000/- is under consideration of the Government.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2905 FOR 19.12.2012 BY SHRI JOY ABRAHAM REGARDING EPF SUBSCRIBERS GETTING MEAGRE PENSION OF RS. 1000/-.

State wise details of pensioners getting pension below Rs. 1000/- per month

Sl. No.	State	No. of pensioners getting pension less than Rs. 1000 per month.
1	Andhra Pradesh	3,08,120
2	Bihar	79,157
3	Chhattisgarh	31,880
4	Delhi	46,170
5	Goa	8,701
6	Gujarat	1,68,437
7	Haryana	48,840
8	Himachal Pradesh	12,204
9	Jharkhand	32,832
10	Karnataka	2,55,363
11	Kerala	2,20,553
12	Madhya Pradesh	1,03,586
13	Maharashtra	4,47,363
14	North Eastern Region	21,673
15	Orissa	57,505
16	Punjab	46,744
17	Rajasthan	69,466
18	Tamil Nadu	3,49,382
19	Uttaranchal	19,391
20	Uttar Pradesh	2,58,927
21	West Bengal	2,10,427
TOTAL		27,96,721

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2912
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2012**

AMOUNT OF EPFO INVESTED IN PRIVATE SECTOR

†2912. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

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

- (a) the details of amount of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) invested in private sector, non-banking companies during the last three years and the current year along with the profit earned on these investments;**
- (b) whether Chief Investment Advisor of Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) has decided to reduce the maximum period of investment in private sector, non-banking companies to ten years;**
- (c) if so, the details of major decisions taken by Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) and the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) Government's reaction thereto?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)**

(a): Details of amount invested by the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) in private sector, non-banking companies and annual return as per the coupon rate during the last three years and current year are as under:-

(Rs in Crore)

Year	Amount Invested	Annual Return
2009-10	575.40	51.20
2010-11	2433.20	220.59
2011-12	1181.80	111.19
April 2012 to Nov 2012	Nil	Nil

Contd....2/-

As the securities are not sold by EPFO in market, there is no question of earning any profit.

(b) to (d): Committee on Finance and Investment (FIC), a sub-Committee of Central Board of Trustees, is a recommending committee. The recommendations of FIC were placed before Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund (CBT, EPF) in its 200th meeting held on 7th August 2012. The CBT, EPF approved the following recommendations of FIC for consideration of the Central Government:-

- (i) Allowing investment in certificate of deposits of public sector banks for better cash management.**
- (ii) Increase the maximum tenure of Terms Deposit Receipt of Public Sector Banks to 5 Years from existing up to 1 Year to enable EPFO to capture higher yields on such investments.**

The matter is under consideration of the Government.
