

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 374

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY, 2018/ MAGHA 17, 1939 (SAKA)

Rationalisation of domestic and overseas branches of PSBs

374. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any directions to Public Sector Banks to look at rationalising their domestic and overseas branches;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of branches which have been closed down by each bank as a result of the said directions; and
- (c) what is the number of persons who have been forced for taking voluntary retirement by each bank?

ANSWER

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a) and (b): A reforms agenda based on recommendations made by Whole-Time Directors and senior management of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) has been recently referred by the Government to PSBs for appropriate action as per approval of bank Boards. The agenda covers, *inter alia*, rationalisation of overseas operations, and a differentiated banking strategy to leverage bank's competitive advantage, which may include branch network rationalisation for strong regional connect. No branch has been closed in pursuance of the reform agenda.

(c): Voluntary retirement schemes operate on the basis of employees opting for the same of their volition and not in consequence of being forced.

**Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.377

**TO BE ANSWERED ON, 06TH FEBRUARY, 2018/17TH MAGHA, 1939
(SAKA)**

ABOLITION OF CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SYSTEM

QUESTION

**377: SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS;
SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has made it clear and delegated the task of abolition of Contributory Pension System (CPS) to the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether State Governments have come forward to initiate abolition of CPS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the issue?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN)**

(a) to (e): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.377

TO BE ANSWERED ON, 06TH FEBRUARY, 2018/17TH MAGHA, 1939
(SAKA)

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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

QUESTION	ANSWER
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that Government has made it clear and delegated the task of abolition of Contributory Pension System (CPS) to the States; (b) if so, the details thereof; (c) whether State Governments have come forward to initiate abolition of CPS; (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and (e) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the issue?	(a) to (e): The Government of India vide notification dated 22.12.2003 has introduced the National Pension System (earlier known as New Pension Scheme) which is applicable to Central Government employees (except armed forces). The said notification is deemed to be National Pension System (NPS) under Section 20 of the PFRDA Act, 2013. The PFRDA Act, 2013, has been passed by Parliament of India and notified w.e.f. 01.02.2014. State Governments are empowered under Section 12(4) of the PFRDA Act, 2013 to notify NPS for its employees. Other than Tripura and West Bengal, all State Governments have voluntarily notified NPS in respect of its employees.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 564
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018**

**GUIDELINES FOR GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS**

564. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has prepared any structured guidelines for grievance redressal related communications *via* Twitter and Facebook, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) the total grievances voiced *via* Twitter and redressed during 2014 to 2017 and what has been the general nature of these grievances; and**
- (c) the details of human as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure created for this task?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): Media publicity related activities in the Ministry are undertaken only as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time. Ministry has not prepared any independent/separate structural guidelines.

(b): 2926 grievances voiced via Twitter & Facebook have been redressed during 2014 to 2017. The general nature of the grievances are in regard to PF queries, ESIC benefits related to queries, Jobs, Wages, Minimum wages and queries related unorganised sector.

(c): Social Media Team consisting primarily of nodal officers from various Divisions/ Organizations of Ministry handled the social media platforms of the Ministry with technical support of professional engaged through BECIL (A Government of India Enterprise – under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) for one year w.e.f. 18.7.2016 with the required infrastructure, Hardware and Software support.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 751
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018)

PENSION ACCOUNTS LINKED WITH AADHAAR

751. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government maintains data about pensions and if so, the details of pension accounts/pensioners who have been linked with Aadhaar, post demonetisation, till date along with the total number of pension accounts State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 39 per cent of pensioners have not been able to access their pensions because of non linkage of their accounts and PAN with Aadhaar; and
- (c) the details of Aadhaar centres that have been set up for the convenience of pensioners?

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 information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1360
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018**

MODIFICATIONS MADE IN EPFO

1360. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD:

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

- (a) what are the changes or modifications made in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the last three years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) what are the newly included conditions by EPFO for getting pension for an Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) member; and**
- (d) whether return of capital is eligible and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) & (b): The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is a social security legislation to provide for the institution of provident funds, pension fund and deposit-linked insurance fund and is applicable to establishments which belong to industries and classes of establishments listed in Schedule-I and where number of employees is 20 or more. The three Schemes framed under the said Act include (a) The Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952; (b) The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995; and (c) The Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme, 1976.

The major changes or modifications made in the above three Schemes during the last three years viz. 2015, 2016 and 2017, inter-alia, include:

Contd..2/-

- **settlement of claims under EPF, EPS and EDLI Schemes within 20 days from the date of its receipt in lieu of 30 days;**
- **enhancement of the maximum assurance benefit under EDLI Scheme, 1976 in the event of death from Rs.3.60 lakh to Rs.6.00 lakh;**
- **limiting the liability of the Pension Fund in the event of death of a member in respect of whom no contribution is received for a period of 36 months;**
- **amendment in paragraph 72(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 wherein changes have been made in the conditions leading to a Provident Fund account becoming an Inoperative Account;**
- **launching of 'Employees' Enrolment Campaign 2017';**
- **provision for allowing private sector banks to collect contribution from employers under the Schemes;**
- **reduction in administrative charges under EPF Scheme, 1952 from 0.85 per cent to 0.65 per cent of the wages, etc.**

(c): Membership under the EPS, 1995 in case of new entrants after 1.9.2014 has been made applicable where the pay is less than or equal to Rs.15,000/- only. Existing members who were contributing on higher wages to the Pension Fund as on 1.9.2014 were allowed option to continue to contribute on higher wages after 1.9.2014 provided they contribute @ 1.16 per cent on salary exceeding Rs.15,000/-, as an additional contribution. The fresh option was to be exercised within a period of six months from 1st September, 2014, extendable further for a period not exceeding six months.

The pensionable salary shall be the average monthly pay of sixty months preceding the date of exit from the membership of the Pension Fund instead of 12 months, with effect from 01.09.2014.

(d): The provision for return of capital has been deleted from the EPS, 1995 with effect from 26.09.2008.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1363
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018**

LESS PENSION UNDER EPS-95 SCHEME

1363. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that pensioners of Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)-95 scheme are getting less than Rs. 2500 per month pension;**
- (b) the total number of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) pensioners as on 31st December, 2017;**
- (c) the total accumulated fund in the EPFO account towards Employees' Provident Fund contribution as on 31st December, 2017;**
- (d) whether Government has accepted and implemented the 'Koshiyari Recommendations' for financial betterment of EPS holders thereof; and**
- (e) if not, by when it will be implemented?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): The pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 1995 is calculated as per the provisions of EPS, 1995 which may be more or less than Rs. 2500/- per month depending upon the pensionable salary and pensionable service.

Further, vide notification dated 19.08.2014, a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- per month under EPS, 1995 has been fixed with effect from 01.09.2014.

Contd..2/-

(b): The total number of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) pensioners as on 31.12.2017 is 60,84,499.

(c): The accumulated fund in EPFO towards Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) [Un-exempted sector] as on 31.12.2017 is Rs.5,66,031.95 crore (provisional un-audited) in debt investments at face value.

The accumulated fund in EPF [Un-exempted sector] as on 31.12.2017 is Rs.25,034.85 crore [provisional Un-audited] in Equity and related investments at cost value.

(d) & (e): No, Sir. To maintain sustainability of the Employees' Pension Fund, the recommendations of the Koshiyari Committee have not been accepted.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2161
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2018**

PRADHAN MANTRI ROJGAR PROTSAHAN YOJANA

2161. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA:

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

- (a) the details of the amount disbursed, State-wise towards employer's provident fund contribution under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) since 2016;**
- (b) the number of employees benefited under this scheme, State-wise especially of West Bengal, since 2016; and**
- (c) the reasons for Government contribution under this scheme being only 50 per cent (500 crore) of the budgetary projection of 1000 crore in 2017-18?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojna (PMRPY) provides for payment of Pension Scheme contribution of 8.33% for all new employees enrolling in Employees Provident Fund Organisation for the first three years of their employment. The details of the amount disbursed State-wise under PMRPY as on 06.03.2018 is at Annexure- I.

(b): The number of employees benefitted under this scheme, State-wise since 2016 i.e. from 09.08.2016 to 06.03.2018 under PMRPY is at Annexure-II.

(c): Being a new Scheme, Budget Estimates for the year 2017-18 (Rs.1,000 crore) could not be projected based on previous data. However, at the time of preparation of Revised Estimate by EPFO for the year 2017-18, Rs. 500 crores was projected for PMRPY, which was estimated on the basis of growth of the scheme over previous months.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2161 due for reply on 14.03.2018

State-Wise Amount Disbursed under PMRPY FROM 9th August'2016 TO 6TH March, 2018.

States/UTs	Amount Disbursed (in Rupees)
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	305715917
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0
ASSAM	3210590
BIHAR	72027827
CHANDIGARH	32004717
CHHATTISGARH	29592526
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	0
DAMAN AND DIU	0
DELHI	221095616
GOA	5285268
GUJARAT	431175297
HARYANA	350959595
HIMACHAL PRADESH	29305158
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	0
JHARKHAND	10311337
KARNATAKA	464947547
KERALA	155273538
LAKSHADWEEP	0
MADHYA PRADESH	126586375
MAHARASHTRA	654331134
MANIPUR	0
MEGHALAYA	0
MIZORAM	0
N.A	0
NAGALAND	0
ODISHA	40999094
PUDUCHERRY	0
PUNJAB	108039877
RAJASTHAN	105494817
SIKKIM	0
TAMIL NADU	455332039
TELANGANA	0
TRIPURA	0
UTTAR PRADESH	353923696
UTTARAKHAND	97450236
WEST BENGAL	103232110
TOTAL	4156294311

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2161 due for reply on 14.03.2018

State-Wise Employees Benefitted under PMRPY FROM 9th August'2016 TO 6TH March, 2018.

States/UTs	No. of Employees Benefitted
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	246675
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0
ASSAM	2145
BIHAR	39505
CHANDIGARH	20569
CHHATTISGARH	21371
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI	0
DAMAN AND DIU	0
DELHI	142068
GOA	2413
GUJARAT	247428
HARYANA	215847
HIMACHAL PRADESH	22364
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	0
JHARKHAND	7405
KARNATAKA	252252
KERALA	58264
LAKSHADWEEP	0
MADHYA PRADESH	76182
MAHARASHTRA	489228
MANIPUR	0
MEGHALAYA	0
MIZORAM	0
N.A	0
NAGALAND	0
ODISHA	35007
PUDUCHERRY	0
PUNJAB	55001
RAJASTHAN	97959
SIKKIM	0
TAMIL NADU	289636
TELANGANA	0
TRIPURA	0
UTTAR PRADESH	210758
UTTARAKHAND	72823
WEST BENGAL	86778
TOTAL	2691678

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH, 2018**

PROMOTION OF PMRPY

2162. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to promote schemes like Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) across the country through skill development;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether Government is taking initiative to focus on providing more employment to the unemployed youth in future to make this scheme more effective and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (c): Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) incentivises employers for generation of new employment, where Government of India is paying 8.33% of the Employer's Share of contributions that goes towards Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) for the new employees for the first three years. The scheme is targeted for employees earning up to Rs. 15,000 per month and also aims to formalize a large number of informal workers.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2018**

INTEREST RATE OF EPF

†2165. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the rate of interest of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in each year for last five years and the factors and reasons responsible for present low rate of interest?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): As per the provisions of Paragraph 60(1) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is required to credit interest on the balance available in the accounts of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) members at such rate as may be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF. The details of the declared rate of interest on EPF balances in each year for the last five financial years are as under:

Financial Year	Rate of Interest (in per cent)
2012-13	8.50
2013-14	8.75
2014-15	8.75
2015-16	8.80
2016-17	8.65

The rate of interest on EPF is determined on the basis of estimated earnings for the concerned financial year on the total investment corpus in the EPF. Further, in determining the rate of interest on EPF balances in each year, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that there is no overdrawing on the Interest Account as a result of the debit thereto of the interest credited to the accounts of members. The CBT, EPF has recommended 8.55 per cent. rate of interest on EPF for the financial year 2017-18, which is fairly higher than other comparable schemes viz. General Provident Fund(GPF)/Public Provident Fund (PPF).

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3772
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018**

BENEFITS FOR MIGRANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

3772. SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that under the labour laws, migrant construction workers are entitled to housing and other social security benefits apart from minimum wages, overtime payments and weekly offs;**
- (b) if so, the measures that have been taken in the last three years to ensure that these benefits are extended to migrant construction workers;**
- (c) whether any action has been taken against erring construction companies in the last three years in this regard;**
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and**
- (e) whether there is any fund exclusively available for construction workers?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) & (b): The construction workers including migrant construction workers are eligible for benefits under various labour laws including the Minimum Wages Act and the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 depending upon their eligibility. The BOCW Act provides for loans and advances to a beneficiary for construction of a house.

The States are mandated to utilize the cess fund for the welfare of the BOC workers including migrant construction workers in terms of Section 22(1) of the Act and as such the States have formulated various welfare schemes relating to BOC workers life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, funeral assistance etc.

Contd..2/-

(c) & (d): The office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) conducts regular inspection of the construction establishments falling under the Central Sphere to ensure the compliance of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Details of Inspections and action taken during the last three years have been mentioned in Annexure.

(e): The Building and Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 provides for constitution of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Fund exclusively for the Building and Other Construction Workers. The source of the fund is the collection of cess @1% of the cost of construction incurred by the employer under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

ANNEXURE

Statement Showing : BOCW Act

S. No	Enactment	No. of Inspections made		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 *
1	Ahmedabad	118	87	107
2	Ajmer	82	34	67
3	Asansol	19	18	20
4	Bangalore	98	58	52
5	Bhubaneswar	60	50	58
6	Chandigarh	231	246	84
7	Chennai	56	57	47
8	Cochin	118	114	90
9	Delhi	29	81	80
10	Dhanbad	480	25	54
11	Dehradun	81	55	70
12	Guwahati	89	88	77
13	Hyderabad	78	53	59
14	Jabalpur	108	94	73
15	Kanpur	58	25	61
16	Kolkata	122	88	104
17	Mumbai	105	49	61
18	Nagpur	43	49	34
19	Patna	55	31	9
20	Raipur	85	70	119
	Total	2115	1372	1326

Convictions (under Prosecutions)		
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 *
50	2	4
6	1	3
0	0	0
15	10	1
4	0	5
11	6	8
0	0	0
35	8	6
2	46	0
2	13	2
0	0	0
0	0	0
8	1	0
17	4	2
17	5	0
8	44	0
6	1	2
12	18	10
0	0	0
2	181	128
195	340	171

Note: *for the period (Apr-Feb)

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3775
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018**

INCREASING OF PENSION FOR LABOURERS

†3775. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of retired labourer pensioners of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is about 28,50,000 at present;**
- (b) whether the retired labourer pensioners of EPFO are getting only Rs.1000/- per month pension at present;**
- (c) whether it is impossible for any family to survive on Rs.1000/- monthly pension;**
- (d) if so, whether Government would consider to increase the pension of the retired labourer pensioners of EPFO upto an amount needed for the survival of their family;**
- (e) if so, by when; and**
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): The total number of pensioners of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as on 31.03.2017 were 56,49,797, which include, member pensioners, spouse pensioners, children pensioners, nominee pensioners, parent pensioners and orphan pensioners.

Contd..2/-

(b): The pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is calculated as per the provisions of EPS, 1995 which may be more or less than Rs. 1000/- per month depending upon the pensionable salary and pensionable service of the member pensioner.

(c): No such information is available in the Ministry.

(d) to (f): The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is a self-funded Scheme with contribution from employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages (up to Rupees Fifteen Thousand). Further, Government contributes 1.16 per cent of wages in EPS, 1995 upto a salary limit of Rs. 15,000/- per month. All benefits under the Scheme are paid out of such accumulations.

Further, the Government has fixed minimum pension to Rs. 1000/- per month under EPS, 1995 with effect from 01.09.2014 by providing budgetary support keeping in view the widespread demand. No decision regarding increasing the minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- to EPS, 1995 pensioners has been taken.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3778
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018**

PRIVATE PROVIDENT FUND TRUSTS

3778. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has permitted several private firms to establish their own trusts to manage Provident Fund (PF) contributions instead of depositing them to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of firms given such exemption, year-wise; and**
- (c) whether there is any check on these trusts to verify any misuse of these funds by the firms?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): Under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, appropriate Government permits the establishments, already covered under the Act, to maintain their own Provident Fund Trusts under Section 17 of the Act.

(b): The total number of exempted establishments under the Act is 1406 (as on 27.03.2018). Year-wise list of the establishments granted exemption is at Annex.

(c): Exempted establishments and its Trusts remain under the regulatory supervision of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). To keep check on these Trusts to verify any misuse of funds by exempted establishments, EPFO conducts inspection. One of the important aspects of the inspection is to examine whether the exempted Trust is investing the funds as per the 'Pattern of Investment' prescribed by the Government.

Contd..2/-

In case, any irregularity or default is observed, appropriate actions as provided under the Act are taken against the establishment. Provisions and actions provided under the Act are as follows:-

- i. Section 7A of the Act – Assessment of money due from the employer.**
- ii. Section 14B of the Act – Penalty provisions.**
- iii. Section 7Q of the Act – Levy of interest.**
- iv. Section 8 of the Act – Recovery provisions.**
- v. Provisions contained in Appendix ‘A’ to para 27AA of Employees’ Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, such as, fixing the responsibility of the employer to make good the losses occurred in the Trust and the deficiencies in the interest declared by the Board of Trustees, etc.**
- vi. Filing of prosecution against the establishment and the trust under Section 14 of the Act.**
- vii. Cancellation of exemption.**

*

Annex referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3778 for reply on 28.03.2018 by Shri Mohd. Ali Khan, M.P. regarding 'Private Provident Fund Trusts'.

YEAR-WISE LIST OF EXEMPTED/RELAXED ESTABLISHMENTS		
SL. NO.	YEAR OF EXEMPTION/RELAXATION	NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS
1	1952	50
2	1953	10
3	1954	5
4	1955	4
5	1956	37
6	1957	27
7	1958	15
8	1959	13
9	1960	12
10	1961	13
11	1962	52
12	1963	18
13	1964	38
14	1965	19
15	1966	26
16	1967	20
17	1968	11
18	1969	16
19	1970	21
20	1971	24
21	1972	17
22	1973	14
23	1974	16
24	1975	28
25	1976	19
26	1977	12
27	1978	17
28	1979	15
29	1980	13
30	1981	14
31	1982	32
32	1983	35
33	1984	21
34	1985	25
35	1986	18
36	1987	28
37	1988	22
38	1989	22

Annex referred to in reply to part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3778 for reply on 28.03.2018 by Shri Mohd. Ali Khan, M.P. regarding 'Private Provident Fund Trusts'.

YEAR-WISE LIST OF EXEMPTED/RELAXED ESTABLISHMENTS		
SL. NO.	YEAR OF EXEMPTION/RELAXATION	NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS
39	1990	30
40	1991	33
41	1992	31
42	1993	33
43	1994	29
44	1995	18
45	1996	26
46	1997	20
47	1998	7
48	1999	9
49	2000	19
50	2001	10
51	2002	5
52	2003	2
53	2004	5
54	2005	7
55	2006	13
56	2007	66
57	2008	50
58	2009	50
59	2010	20
60	2011	9
61	2012	11
62	2013	4
63	2014	6
64	2015	6
65	*NA	88
TOTAL		1406

*** NOT AVAILABLE**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4244
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH APRIL, 2018**

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

**4244. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:
SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:**

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

- (a) whether Government is incentivising the industries and employers, for promotion of employment generation in the country under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of industries and employers motivated under this scheme, so far, particularly in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of the funds earmarked and provided to implement the said scheme; and**
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to create job opportunities through this scheme?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

- (a) & (b): Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) incentivises employers for generation of new employment, where Government of India is paying 8.33% of the Employer's Share of contributions that goes towards Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) for the new employees for the first three years. The scheme is targeted for employees earning up to Rs. 15,000 per month and also aims to formalize a large number of informal workers. New workers under this scheme will have access to social security benefits of organized sector.**
- (c): The beneficiaries under PMRPY as on date i.e. 02.04.2018 in the state of Andhra Pradesh is 1102 and in Telangana is 2223.**
- (d): There is no specific provision for state-wise allocation of funds under the scheme. However, the total disbursement as on date i.e. 02.04.2018 under PMRPY in respect of Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 10.05 crore and Telangana is Rs.27.57 crore.**
- (e): The Cabinet has approved the proposal to enhance the scope of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY). Now Government will pay Employer's full contribution of 12% (8.33% EPS and 3.67% EPF) as admissible from time to time for all the sectors.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*18
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018

PMPRPY BENEFICIARIES FOR TEXTILE SECTOR

*18. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of textile sector employees registered under Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY), since its inception, month-wise;
- (b) the quantum of funds disbursed under the scheme since its inception, month-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that beneficiaries have not been able to receive their claims due to errors in Aadhaar linkage to their PAN numbers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.18 FOR 05.02.2018
REGARDING PMPRPY BENEFICIARIES FOR TEXTILE SECTOR
ASKED BY SHRI PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA**

(a) & (b): Sir, the number of textile sector employees registered under Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY) since its inception on 9th August 2016 are two lakh fifty three thousand four hundred ninety seven only (2,53,497). The quantum of funds disbursed under the scheme since its inception is Rupees thirteen crores eleven lakh five thousand three hundred and seventy seven only (Rs. 13,11,05,377). Month-wise details of employees registered and funds released are given in Annexure.

(c): No Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

Annexure

State	Total Employees registered under PMPRPY	Funds disbursed under PMPRPY
Aug-16	0	0
Sep-16	0	0
Oct-16	50	0
Nov-16	429	2,01,737
Dec-16	130	29,193
Jan-17	1870	1,99,994
Feb-17	4949	2,39,417
Mar-17	10101	11,17,653
Apr-17	7999	13,75,298
May-17	13862	19,60,011
Jun-17	21829	47,17,277
Jul-17	24806	72,98,595
Aug-17	37429	1,03,69,126
Sep-17	26523	1,56,26,678
Oct-17	21180	1,59,35,360
Nov-17	22547	1,96,72,343
Dec-17	38387	2,49,02,391
Jan-18	21346	2,74,60,304
Feb-18	60	0
Total	2,53,497	13,11,05,377

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *264
TO BE ANSWERED ON MARCH 20, 2018/PHALGUNA 29, 1939 (SAKA)
WITHDRAWAL OF CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SYSTEM

*264 Shri T.G. Venkatesh:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- a. whether Government has taken note of the demand across the country seeking withdrawal of Contributory Pension System which has become a detriment to the employees;
- b. if so, the details thereof;
- c. whether Government has made any study and taken the views of the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- d. the stand of Government in this regard?

ANSWER

The Minister of Finance
(Shri Arun Jaitley)

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

**STATEMENT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *264 REGARDING
“WITHDRAWAL OF CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SYSTEM” RAISED BY SHRI T.G.
VENKATESH, TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2018.**

(a) Yes Sir

(b) Government has made a conscious move to shift from the defined benefit, pay-as-you-go pension scheme to defined contribution pension scheme now called as National Pension System (NPS) after considering the rising and unsustainable pension bill. The transition also has the added benefit of freeing the limited resources of the Government for more productive and socio- economic sectoral development.

NPS was made applicable for all the new entrants who joined the Central Government service on or after 01-01-2004, except the Armed Forces, in the first stage. Subsequently, most of the State Government excluding Tripura and West Bengal have also switched to NPS for their employees. Further, from 01-05-2009, NPS has been extended to the private sector, including the unorganised sector on voluntary basis.

(c) & (d) Pursuant to the recommendations of 7th CPC, a Committee of Secretaries to the Government of India was constituted to suggest measures for streamlining the implementation of the NPS. The Committee has recommended certain measures to streamline the NPS, vide its report dated 28-02-2018.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 394
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018**

INCREASING INVESTMENT FROM EPF IN EQUITY MARKET

***394. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has increased the quantum of amount from Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for being invested in equity market since 2015;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with year-wise cap;**
- (c) whether Government is expecting different Rate of Return (RoR) for the amount invested in different years with the increasing of cap; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(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. 394 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018 BY SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA REGARDING 'INCREASING INVESTMENT FROM EPF IN EQUITY MARKET'.

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has increased the quantum of amount to be invested in Exchange Traded Funds (equities) since 2015 as per the 'Pattern of Investment' notified by the Government. The details of year-wise allocation to Exchange Traded Funds of the total investible surplus of EPFO are as under:

Year	Allocation (in per cent.)
2015-16	05
2016-17	10
2017-18	15

Exchange Traded Fund (equity) is a market linked instrument and the rate of return (RoR) for such investment depends on the performance of the equity market.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 578
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018**

MINIMUM PENSION FOR EX-LABOURERS OR EMPLOYEES

578. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

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

- (a) what is the number of ex-labourers or employees receiving pensions from public or private concerns during last three years;**
- (b) whether there is any minimum pension made available to them, if so, what is the range of such pensions; and**
- (c) whether Government has any plan to ensure a minimum pension to all ex-labourers or employees which will be proportional to current cost of living index?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): The total number of member pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 during the last three years was as under:

Year	Member Pensioners
2014-15	3566857
2015-16	3783251
2016-17	3875335

(b): The Central Government has issued Gazette Notification No.593(E) dated 19.08.2014 providing a minimum pension of Rs.1,000/- per month effective from September, 2014 under EPS, 1995.

(c): No, Sir.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1365
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018**

INCREASING MINIMUM PENSION UNDER EPS-95 SCHEME

1365. DR. SANJAY SINH:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to hike minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)-95 scheme to Rs. 7500 per month;**
- (b) if so, by which time the pensioners will get it effectively thereof;**
- (c) whether Government proposes for interim relief prior to finalization of minimum pension per month thereon;**
- (d) if so, the proposal details of Government thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (d): No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(e): The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is a self-funded Scheme with contribution from employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages (up to Rupees Fifteen Thousand). Further, Government contributes 1.16 per cent of wages in EPS, 1995 upto a salary limit of Rs. 15,000/- per month. All benefits under the Scheme are paid out of such accumulations. However, the Government has fixed minimum pension to Rs. 1000/- per month under EPS, 1995 with effect from 01.09.2014 by providing budgetary support keeping in view the widespread demand.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 207
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2018**

NON-FILING OF RETURNS BY EXEMPTED PF TRUSTS

***207. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:**

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

- (a) whether a large number of exempted private Provident Fund (PF) trusts have not filed their return for the last several years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure filing of returns by all the exempted PF trusts in order to protect the interest of workers?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 207 FOR 14.03.2018 BY SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY REGARDING 'NON-FILING OF RETURNS BY EXEMPTED PF TRUSTS'.

(a) to (c): The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) exempted establishments have been filing the statutory returns as required by the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952. The exempted establishments are required to file various returns in hardcopy as well as through an online procedure on the dashboard. On 27.05.2017, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a new software for filing of online returns by the exempted establishments. The month-wise data for establishments which have not filed online returns is as under: –

Sl. No.	Month	No. of establishments
1.	June, 2017	167
2.	July, 2017	168
3.	August, 2017	171
4.	September, 2017	185
5.	October, 2017	196
6.	November, 2017	217

Requisite actions, such as, issuing of show cause notices, cancellation of exemption and prosecution of the employer under section 14 of EPF & MP Act, 1952 are taken by EPFO.
