

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4567
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.04.2017**

UNCLAIMED AMOUNT IN EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNTS

†4567. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the State-wise details of the unclaimed amount in Employees' Provident Fund accounts, as on date;**
- (b) the amount of funds earmarked for the payment of interest on said amount during the last financial year; and**
- (c) whether Government has formulated any scheme for the utilisation of this unclaimed money?**

ANSWER

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

(a): As per para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, certain amounts are classified as Inoperative Accounts. All such Inoperative Accounts have, however, definite claimants. The State/UT-wise details of inoperative amount in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) as on 31.03.2016 are at Annex.

(b): No amount of funds is earmarked by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for payment of interest on inoperative accounts in accordance with paragraph 60(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 which states that interest shall not be credited to the account of a member from the date on which it has become Inoperative Account, under the provisions of sub-paragraph (6) of paragraph 72 of the Scheme.

(c): No decision has been taken in this regard.

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4567 FOR REPLY ON 12.04.2017 BY SHRI SANJAY SETH REGARDING UNCLAIMED AMOUNT IN EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNTS.

State/UT-wise details of Inoperative Accounts in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) as on 31.03.2016

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount of Inoperative Accounts (in crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh (includes Telangana)	3,493.95
2	Bihar	238.90
3	Chhattisgarh	358.62
4	Delhi	5,045.03
5	Goa	225.54
6	Gujarat (includes Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	2,597.94
7	Haryana	2,270.78
8	Himachal Pradesh	245.99
9	Jharkhand	416.87
10	Karnataka	6,067.27
11	Kerala (includes Lakshadweep)	411.93
12	Madhya Pradesh	989.45
13	Maharashtra	8,349.02
14	States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur & Mizoram (North Eastern Region)	231.91
15	Odisha	687.03
16	Punjab (includes Chandigarh)	1,275.17
17	Rajasthan	848.94
18	Tamil Nadu (Includes Puducherry)	2,995.80
19	Uttarakhand	175.11
20	Uttar Pradesh	2,079.81
21	West Bengal (includes Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	1,860.09
	Total	40,865.14

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 722
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

REFORMS IN LABOUR LAWS

†722. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a series of policy initiatives with regard to reforms in labour laws, technical steps and social security during the last two and a half years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the State Governments are extending required cooperation in implementing these policy initiatives; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Reforms in labour laws are an ongoing process to update legislative system to address the need of the hour and to make them more effective and contemporary to the emerging economic and industrial scenario. Accordingly, Ministry of Labour & Employment have taken several reform initiatives, both legislative reforms as well as Governance reforms through use of technology, to reduce the complexity in compliance and bringing transparency and accountability leading to better enforcement of the Labour Laws. These initiatives, inter-alia, include:

- (i) Enhancing the ceiling of wage limit for the purpose of eligibility for Bonus and for the purpose of calculation of Bonus as Rs. 21,000/- per month and Rs. 7,000/- per month respectively by amending the Payment of Bonus Act 1965.**
- (ii). Prohibition of employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes through amendment in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.**

- (iii) Extending the coverage of Employees State Insurance by increase in the wage ceiling from Rs. 15000/- per month to Rs. 21000/- per month.**
- (iv) Enabling provision under the Payment of Wages Act 1936 for payment of wages through Bank accounts.**
- (v) Launching of unified Shram Suvidha Portal for allotment of a Unique Labour Identification Number (LIN) for establishments, filing of self-certified and simplified Online Annual Return and a transparent Labour Inspection Scheme through computerized system**
- (vi) Portability of Employees Provident Fund accounts through Universal Account Number (UAN)**

(c) & (d): The process of Legislative reforms includes consultations with stakeholders including Central Trade Unions, Employers' Association and State Governments in the form of tripartite consultation. During recent months, several such tripartite meetings have been held for considering suggestions on various legislative reform proposals where the representatives of all stake holders/State Governments participated and gave their suggestions on the legislative proposals.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2017**

HOUSING SCHEMES FOR EPF BENEFICIARIES

†1535. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government had announced to bring a housing scheme for the members of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of members under EPFO at present and whether it is targetted to bring all the members of this organisation under this housing scheme;**
- (d) whether work on this housing scheme has been started and the targets to make available accommodation to all members in phased manner have been fixed; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has taken a decision for modification in the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952 to add a new paragraph 68 BD with the following salient features:

- A member of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) being a member of a co-operative society or a housing society having at least 10 members of EPF, can withdraw upto 90 per cent from the Fund for purchase of dwelling house/flat or construction of dwelling house/acquisition of site.

Contd..2/-

- Monthly installments for repayments of any outstanding payments or interest may also be paid from the amount standing to the credit of the member, to the Government/housing agency/primary lending agency or banks concerned.

(c): The total number of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) member accounts as on 31.03.2016, as per Annual Report for 2015-16, is 17.14 crore. On an average, contributions have been received in respect of 3.76 crore members during the year 2015-16. The withdrawal facility from the Provident Fund (PF) account under the Scheme will be available to only those PF members who fulfill the conditions prescribed.

(d) & (e): The paragraph to be inserted in EPF Scheme, 1952 has not been notified, therefore no targets have been fixed.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2326
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2017**

**INVESTMENT OF EPF IN SHARES AND EQUITIES OF PUBLIC LIMITED
COMPANIES**

2326. DR. V. MAITREYAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has invested a portion of EPF amount in shares and equities of various Public Limited Companies as well as blue chip shares of some private companies;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount invested in top ten companies, company-wise;**
- (c) whether Government has taken any efforts to bring in more number of employees in both organised and unorganised sectors under the ambit of EPF; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this?**

ANSWER

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

(a): Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is investing in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) based on Nifty 50, Sensex and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Indices. EPFO does not invest in shares and equities of individual companies.

(b): The total amount invested by EPFO in ETFs as on 28th February, 2017 is as under:

(i) Nifty 50 and Sensex Index based ETFs: Rs. 17,105 crore

(ii) CPSE Index based ETF: Rs. 1,504 crore.

(c) & (d): The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 is applicable to every establishment employing 20 or more persons which is either a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule-I of the Act or an establishment to which the Act has been made applicable by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Contd..2/-

An Employees' Enrolment Campaign, 2017 has been launched for the period 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017 to bring in more workers under the ambit of EPFO. Under the campaign, an employer, whether already covered or yet to be covered, can enroll employees who remained un-enrolled for any reason between 01.04.2009 and 31.12.2016 by making a declaration of such employees during the campaign period. Such declaration shall be valid only in respect of employees who are alive as on 1st January, 2017 and no proceedings under Section 7A of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 or under paragraph 26B of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952 or under paragraph 8 of the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 have been initiated against their establishment or employer, as the case may be, to determine the eligibility for membership of such employees.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2017**

RAISING EPFO'S INVESTMENT IN ETFs

**3124. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:
SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is looking at raising retirement fund body EPFO's investment in exchange trade funds (ETFs) to 15 per cent from existing 10 per cent;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this issue was discussed in the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO recently; and**
- (c) if so, the details of deliberations made in the said meeting and the final decision taken by EPFO in this regard?**

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

- (a): No, Sir, not at the present moment.**
- (b): No, Sir.**
- (c): Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the Question above.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2017

SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR GENERATION OF EMPLOYMENT

3128. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether Central Government has launched various special schemes during last two years for generation of employment in the country and all time high employment opportunities have been created in various sectors on expected lines;
- (b) whether the steps taken by Central Government towards labour reforms during the last two and a half years have led to an unprecedented improvement in the lives of labourers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Employment generation has been an important priority of the Government. Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment trends are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey (NSS) Office and Labour Bureau. As per the result of surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by Labour Bureau, the estimated workforce for persons aged 15 years and above on usual status basis during 2013-14 and 2015-16 was 48.04 crore persons and 46.77 crore persons respectively.

In addition, Labour Bureau, has been conducting Quarterly Employment surveys in the selected labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors. The coverage of the Survey has since been enhanced during 2016 with more industries/sectors i.e. Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation & Restaurants and Information & Technology (IT)/ Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and as per the results of the Survey during 2016, the estimated increase in employment during 1st Oct, 2016 over 1st April, 2016 was 1.10 lakh workers.

Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Government is implementing various schemes like Make in India, Skill India, Digital India etc. Skilling of workforce under skill India is a major thrust of the Government to meet the changing needs of industry. A new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been established to coordinate the skill activities across Ministries. In order to improve the employability of youth, around 20 Ministries run skill development schemes across 70 sectors.

A new Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" has been initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in the year 2016-17 for incentivising industry for promoting employment generation with the allocation of Rs. 1000 crore. Under this scheme employers would be provided an incentive to enhance employment where the Government will pay the employer's contribution of 8.33% EPS made to new employees. In textiles (apparel and made-ups) sector, the Government will also pay the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition to paying the 8.33% EPS contribution. Government has announced a booster package of Rs 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector.

Government has also implemented the National Career Service having a portal (www.ncs.gov.in) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers and provide other employment related services.

Reforms in labour laws are an ongoing process to update legislative system to address the need of the hour and to make them more effective and contemporary to the emerging economic and industrial scenario. The process of Legislative reforms includes consultation with stakeholders including Central Trade Unions, Employers' Association and State Governments in the form of tripartite consultation. During last 2 years, several such tripartite meetings have been held for considering suggestions on various legislative reform proposals where the representatives of all stake holders including Central Trade Unions participated and gave their suggestions. The exercise of simplification and amalgamation of labour laws aims at facilitating ease of compliance of labour laws, effective enforcement and enhancing wage security, job security and social security.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3137
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2017**

EXTENSION OF PF ACCOUNT PORTABILITY

†3137. SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

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

- (a) the number of workers to whom the facility of PF Account Portability, has been extended under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate programme, State-wise the details thereof;**
- (b) the quantum of dormant/unclaimed money in PF Accounts and the action plan devised by Government to make the same available to the appropriate person, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether Government proposes to utilise the unclaimed amount for certain other purposes, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The Universal Account Number (UAN) provides portability for the employees covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952. It enables portability of Provident Fund (PF) accumulation when the details of Bank Account, Aadhaar and Permanent Account Number (PAN) seeded in UAN database of the member and are verified by employer on change of job.

The total number of UAN seeded with Aadhaar and are portable are 25,70,274. State-wise details are at Annex.

(b): As per para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, certain amounts are classified as Inoperative Accounts. All such Inoperative Accounts have, however, definite claimants. As on 31.03.2016, an amount of Rs. 40,865.14 crore had been classified as Inoperative Accounts in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF).

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The following actions have been taken by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to facilitate payments from inoperative accounts:

- (i) EPFO has launched a portal namely Inoperative Accounts Online Help Desk to assist the members to identify their inoperative accounts.**

- (ii) Awareness campaigns have been undertaken through electronic as well as print media from time to time to educate the members to transfer or withdraw their PF accumulations.**

The total amount paid to the beneficiaries from inoperative accounts during the last four years is as under:

Year	Amount settled (Rs. in crore)
2012-13	2890.40
2013-14	4316.71
2014-15	6491.01
2015-16	5826.89

(c): No decision has been taken in this regard.

*

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3137 FOR REPLY ON 29.03.2017 BY SHRI P.L. PUNIA REGARDING EXTENSION OF PF ACCOUNT PORTABILITY.

State-wise Provident Fund (PF) Account Portability

State	Universal Account Number (UAN) Linked
ANDHRA PRADESH	49,854
ASSAM	6,719
BIHAR	9,574
CHHATTISGARH	12,524
DELHI	1,76,884
GOA	9,880
GUJARAT	1,75,256
HARYANA	1,67,380
HIMACHAL PRADESH	18,236
JHARKHAND	14,896
KARNATAKA	5,16,283
KERALA	43,180
MADHYA PRADESH	32,719
MAHARASHTRA	6,66,622
ODISHA	31,373
PUNJAB (including Chandigarh)	41,063
RAJASTHAN	20,739
TAMIL NADU	2,42,666
TELANGANA	1,50,016
UTTAR PRADESH	84,336
UTTARAKHAND	19,988
WEST BENGAL	80,086
GRAND TOTAL	25,70,274

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3769
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

INVESTMENT BY EPFO IN SPECIAL DEPOSIT SCHEME

3769. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made good use of its year end windfall from Government's Special Deposit Scheme with an investment of nearly Rs. 10,000 crore in top rated corporate bonds clinching best possible rates;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the EPFO earns an interest income of about Rs. 4,700 crore from Government's Special Deposit Scheme while together with other standalone provident funds this may be more than Rs. 12,000 crore; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Presently, Government's Special Deposit Scheme is not available for investment. However, as on December, 2016, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has an investment of Rs. 54,518.11 crore in Special Deposit Scheme of the Government.

During the financial year, 2016-17, EPFO has invested in top rated Corporate bonds on various occasions. Those companies include Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Power Finance Corporation (PFC), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) & National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(c) & (d) The details of interest income from Government's Special Deposit Scheme of other standalone provident funds are not maintained centrally. However, the details of interest income of EPFO from Government's Special Deposit Scheme for the last three years is as under:

- 1. 2016-17 : Rs. 4484 crore**
- 2. 2015-16 : Rs. 4741 crore**
- 3. 2014-15 : Rs. 4734 crore.**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3776
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

ONLINE FACILITY FOR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS IN EPFO

3776. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation may introduce online facility for settlement of claims, including EPF withdrawal and pension fixation by May, 2017;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that at present the EPFO receives about 1 crore applications manually; and**
- (d) whether it is a fact that the process of connecting all field offices with a central server is going on?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has taken various steps to provide various online services like for claims of provident fund, final settlement, withdrawals and pension fund withdrawal, etc. to its members in a quick and transparent manner. However, no specific date has been fixed. Receipt of transfer claims online has already been introduced by EPFO.

(c): The claims other than transfer claims are received manually but processed on Computer Systems and the benefits credited to members by way of Core Banking Solution (CBS) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) to their bank account.

(d): Out of 120 field offices of EPFO, 110 field offices have already been connected with a central server.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3781
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

**SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES FOR ORGANIZED AND UNORGANISED
WORKERS**

†3781. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large population of unorganised workers are not able to avail the benefits of social security schemes, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the number of workers in organized and unorganised sectors who are availing the benefits of various social security schemes and the number of those who are deprived of the same, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the details of the contributions made by each of the workers towards various social security schemes?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers. This Act stipulates formulation of suitable welfare schemes for unorganised workers on matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover, (ii) health and maternity benefits, (iii) old age protection and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government through the National Social Security Board. The social security schemes being implemented by various ministries/departments for unorganised workers and listed in Schedule I of this Act are mentioned below:-

Contd..2/-

- i. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development);**
- ii. National Family Benefit Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development);**
- iii. Janani Suraksha Yojana (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);**
- iv. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (Ministry of Textiles);**
- v. Handicraft Artisans' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (Ministry of Textiles);**
- vi. Pension to Master Craft Persons (Ministry of Textiles);**
- vii. National Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen and Training and Extension (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries);**
- viii. Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (Department of Financial Services); and**
- ix. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).**

Further, the Central Government has also launched the Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana for all citizens especially targeting unorganised workers to provide them comprehensive social security.

(b): The number of workers in organised and unorganised sectors who are availing the benefits of various social security schemes are at Annexure-I.

(c): The eligibility conditions, including the component of contribution from beneficiaries, for availing benefits of social security schemes vary from scheme to scheme, for example as per ESI Rules, 1950, the employers and employees contribute at the rate of 4.75% and 1.75% wages per month, respectively, however, in the newly implemented area, the rate of contribution has been reduced to 3% and 1%, respectively for a period of two years w.e.f. 06.10.2017.

Sl. No.		Name of the Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries
1.	Organised Sector	Employees' Provident Fund Organization	3,76,23,000
2.		Employees' State Insurance Corporation	1,89,21,250
3.	Unorganised Sector	National Social Assistance Programme including Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme (as on 28.02.2017)	3,27,81,329
4.		Janani Suraksha Yojana (as on 31.03.2016)	1,04,16,164
5.		Aam Admi Bima Yojana (as on 31.03.2016)	4,51,07,984
6.		Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (as on 30.09.2016)	3,50,62,923
7.		Atal Pension Yojana (as on 31.10.2016)	36,66,002
8.		Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (as 31.10.2016)	3,06,52,201
9.		Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (as 31.10.2016)	9,75,26,192

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4569
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.04.2017**

PEOPLE WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

4569. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of people working in the construction sector has gone up from 20 million in 2004-05 to nearly 50 million now;**
- (b) if so, how Government is protecting the construction workers;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that they do not have any social security;**
- (d) if so, how Government is planning to provide them with social security net; and**
- (e) what role the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board is playing for the welfare and wellbeing of construction workers in the country?**

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, Sir. As per estimates of National Sample Survey (2004-2005), there were about 25 million building and other construction workers in the country, which has increased to about 50 million in 2011-12.

(b) to (e): The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures, including social security.

Contd..2/-

As per Section 18 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (RECS) Act, 1996, the State Governments/UTs Administration have constituted State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for welfare of construction workers. Under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, a cess @ 1% of the cost of construction is collected by the State Governments/ UTs Administration and given to the their respective State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board for meeting the expenses on welfare of construction workers, including social security.

The Cess fund is utilized by the State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards in terms of Section 22 of the Act for welfare of construction workers.

Under Section 22 of the Act, functions of the State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards are as under:

- (a) provide immediate assistance to a beneficiary in case of accident;**
- (b) make payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of sixty years;**
- (c) sanction loans and advances to a beneficiary for construction of a houses not exceeding such amount and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;**
- (d) pay such amount in connection with premia for Group Insurance Scheme of the beneficiaries as it may deem fit;**
- (e) give such financial assistance for the education of children of the beneficiaries as may be prescribed;**
- (f) meet such medical expenses for treatment of major ailments of a beneficiary or, such dependent, as may be prescribed;**
- (g) make payment of maternity benefit to the female beneficiaries; and**
- (h) make provisions and improvement of such other welfare measures and facilities as may be prescribed.**

The Central Government has been issuing directions from time to time under Section 60 of the BOCW (RECS) Act, 1996, to the State Governments and UT Administration for providing social security coverage to the buildings and other construction workers as mandated under Section 22 of the Act.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4574
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.04.2017**

DEVELOPMENTAL WORK IN THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

†4574. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

- (a) the number of proposals regarding developmental work received by the Ministry from the State Government of Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the scheme-wise expenses thereof and the details of the action taken thereon;**
- (b) the reasons for which the proposals received from the State Governments are pending till date;**
- (c) whether any time-limit has been fixed to clear the proposals;**
- (d) whether developmental works are hampered due to delay in approval of the proposal and the manner in which the cost overruns in the above works are adjusted; and**
- (e) the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): There are no proposals regarding developmental works received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh in the Ministry of Labour & Employment during the last three years. However, Ministry of Labour & Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. The fund released to the State of Chhattisgarh under the NCLP Scheme during the last three years is as under:-

Financial Year	Amount released (Rs. in Lakh)
2014-15	432.53
2015-16	26.00
2016-17	0

Further, State Government has been asked to send proposal for conducting fresh survey on the districts for re-opening of closed Special Training Centers.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 726
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

SUICIDES BY LABOURERS DUE TO DEMONETISATION

726. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of labourers in the country have committed suicide due to demonetization rules of Government during the last three months;**
- (b) if so, the details of report of such cases registered during the last three months thereof; and**
- (c) the action taken by Government to protect the human lives thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): No such information is available.

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2017**

SETTING UP OF SENIOR CITIZENS' WELFARE FUND

727. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund money has been diverted for setting up of a Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund despite strong resistance from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Trustees;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that PF money cannot be expended for any purpose other than the payment to individual members; and**
- (d) if so, why this rule was violated or overruled?**

ANSWER

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

(a): No, Sir.

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

(c): As per paragraph 53 of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, the Fund shall not, except with the previous sanction of Central Government, be expended for any purpose other than the payment of the sums standing to the credit of individual members of the Fund or to their nominees or heirs or legal representatives in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.

(d): No violation has taken place.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 354
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

SOCIAL SECURITY TO PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS UNDER EPFO

†*354. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether a large number of workers in the private sector are deprived of the benefits of social security provided by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether a campaign named Employees' Enrolment campaign has been launched to provide social security to the workers of private sector under EPFO; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

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. 354 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017 BY SHRI PRABHAT JHA REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY TO PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS UNDER EPFO.

(a) & (b) The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to scheduled industries and notified establishments having 20 or more employees irrespective of whether employed in public sector or private sector and whose wages at the time of joining is not more than the wage ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- per month.

(c) & (d) An Employees' Enrolment Campaign was launched by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the period 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017 which has now been extended upto 30th June 2017. During the Campaign, various financial incentives are being offered to establishments to enrol their workers. The salient features of the Employees' Enrolment Campaign are as follows:-

(i) An employer, whether already covered or yet to be covered, can enrol employees who remained unenrolled for any reason between 01.04.2009 and 31.12.2016 by making a declaration of such employees during the campaign period. However, the declaration can be made only in respect of employees who are alive.

(ii) The employee's share of contribution if declared by the employer as not deducted, shall stand waived.

(iii) The damages to be paid by the employer in respect of the employees for whom declaration has been made under this campaign shall be at the rate of Rupee 1(one) per annum.

(iv) No administrative charges shall be collected from the employer in respect of the contribution made under the declaration.
