

Monsoon Session -12

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2012
MINIMUM PENSION TO EPS SUBSCRIBERS**

122. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to give a minimum pension of Rs.1,000/- per month for all those who subscribe to the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)**

(a) & (b): The Central Government had constituted an Expert Committee for reviewing the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995. The recommendations of the Expert Committee were considered by the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), a Sub-Committee of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The PIC has since finalized its report and recommended that a minimum monthly pension under EPS, 1995 be increased to Rs. 1000/- per month as an interim measure. The recommendations of the PIC is under consideration of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. An inter-ministerial consultation in this regard has also been initiated.

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

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1206
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.08.2012
ENHANCEMENT OF PENSION**

1206. SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any plans to increase the pension;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)**

(a) to (c): The Central Government had constituted an Expert Committee for reviewing the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995. The recommendations of the Expert Committee were considered by the Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), a Sub-Committee of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The PIC has since finalized its report and recommended that a minimum monthly pension under EPS, 1995 be increased to Rs. 1,000 per month as an Interim measure. The recommendations of the PIC is under consideration of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. An inter-ministerial consultation in this regard has also been initiated.

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RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.08.2012**

CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND

1208. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

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

- (a) the total contribution received towards Employees' Pension Fund for the year ended 2012;**
- (b) the total contribution received up to March, 2012 in the Employees' Pension Fund;**
- (c) out of this total amount how much has been invested;**
- (d) the total interest income of the investment made out of the contribution received towards Employees' Pension Fund for the year ended March, 2012; and**
- (e) the average rate of interest this works out?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)**

- (a): An amount of Rs. 14,767.47 crore (as per unaudited Balance Sheet of 2011-12) has been received as contribution in Employees' Pension Fund for the financial year ending on 31.3.2012.**
- (b): An amount of Rs. 1,62,980.04 crore is balance in Employees' Pension Fund Contribution Account as on 31.3.2012.**
- (c): The whole amount of Employees' Pension Fund stands invested. Rs. 57,087.01 crores is invested in Public Account and balance is invested in securities.**
- (d): As per the unaudited Balance Sheet of the year 2011-12, total interest income of the investment of Employees Pension Fund for the year ended March 2012 is Rs.13,315.79 crore.**
- (e): The average rate of interest on Public Account is 8.5% and on investment in securities is 8.27%.**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 146
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.08.2012**

**PROPOSAL FOR A MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION OF Rs. 1000 FOR EPF
SUBSCRIBERS**

***146. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 for Employees Pension Fund (EPF) subscribers is still under discussion with the union leaders and the Ministry of Finance;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that EPF scheme introduced in 1995 remains unchanged for seventeen long years without any upward revision in the pension benefit; and**
- (c) whether the Ministry will raise it to at least Rs. 3,000 in view of the fact that the cost of living has gone up enormously?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)**

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

*

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.146 FOR 22.08.2012 BY SHRI SANJAY RAUT REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR MINIMUM PENSION OF RS. 1000/- FOR EPF SUBSCRIBERS

(a) to (c): A proposal of the Pension Implementation Committee, a Sub-Committee of Central Board of Trustees, (CBT), Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to enhance the minimum pension under EPS-95 to Rs. 1000 is under consideration of the Government.

Increase/relief has been granted from time to time to EPF pensioners (total four times till date) in the following manner and the amount of pension has increased accordingly:-

Rate of Relief	Granted w.e.f.
4% of original pension amount	15.11.1996
5.5% of original pension amount	01.04.1998
4% of original pension amount	01.04.1999
4% of original pension amount	01.04.2000

Also, various categories of minimum pension were increased w.e.f. 29.1.2000 in the following manner:

Category of Pension	Increased from	Increased to
Widow/Widower Pension	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 450/-
Children Pension	Rs. 115/-	Rs. 150/-
Orphan Pension	Rs. 170/-	Rs. 250/-

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1971
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH AUGUST, 2012
STREAMLINING FUNCTIONING OF EPF OFFICES**

1971. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

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

- (a) whether Employees Provident Fund (EPF) offices in the country are not easily accessible to employees causing delays in ascertaining status of individual accounts leading to corruption and other malpractices;**
- (b) whether online facility for checking individual accounts is still not available and sometimes websites are not functional; and**
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to streamline functioning of EPF offices to make them accessible and transparent?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALIKARJUN KHARGE)**

(a): Every Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) office in the country is equipped with Facilitation Centre to redress all kinds of grievances of the employees. Further, there is centrally web based grievance registration facility available under Employees' Provident Fund Internet Grievance Monitoring System (EPFIGMS) to facilitate grievances of individual employee through internet. Besides, Lok Adalats are conducted by each EPF office every month to redress grievances of the employees.

(b) & (c): The facility for checking EPF accounts is available on Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) website www.epfindia.gov.in in following ways:-

Contd...2/-

(i) The updated balance in EPF account can be obtained by an EPFO member through SMS by furnishing his PF Account number and Mobile number by using "Know your EPF Balance" facility in EPFO website.

(ii) Since April 2012, there is a facility for the employers to download the annual accounts slips for their employees from the accounting year 2010-2011 onwards.

(iii) With effect from August 2012, there is a facility for members to get their e-pass book containing detailed statement of accounts on-line by using the "Member Portal" available on EPFO website.

The EPFO website www.epfindia.gov.in is hosted in National Informatics Centre (NIC) server and is functional except only when NIC server is under routine maintenance.

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**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH AUGUST, 2012**

ENHANCEMENT OF PENSION TO WORKERS

†1981. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

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

- (a) whether Government is considering to increase the pension being provided to workers in the country at present;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) whether Government would take action in order to increase the pension and other facilities being provided to workers?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)**

(a) to (d): 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. 1,000 is under consideration of the Government.
