

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4617

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006

INSTITUTIONS /WORK FORCE UNDER E.P.F. ACT

Fanthome Shri Francis;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the facts that several private and aided institutions in the country are not covered under the Employees Provident Fund Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether only 20% workers of Indian work force have been covered under Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO);
- (d) if so, the reasons for not covering all the work force under Employees Provident Fund Act; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to cover more and more work force/institutions in the country in order to utilize fully the available infrastructure and human resource of the EPFO?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): Subject to provisions of Section-16 of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Act is applicable to every Establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule-1 or notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons. Section -16 of the Act provides for non application of the Act to certain establishments i.e. Co-operative Societies employing less than 50 persons and working without the aid of power, an establishment belonging to or under the control of Central Government or State Government or set up under any central Government Provincial or State Act and whose employees are entitled to the benefit of contributory provident fund or old age pension.

(c): The number of members of the Fund as on 31/03/2005 was 4.11 crores.

(d) & (e): The exclusion clauses like non inclusion in Schedule of Industries, class of establishments, provision of Section 16, wage ceiling, employment strength of minimum 20 employees are the main reasons for not covering all the workforce under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952.

The Act & the schemes framed thereunder are being implemented in accordance with the provisions contained therein. However, special drives are launched from time-to-time to bring the coverable establishments under purview of the Act and extend benefits to more workforce of the country.