

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1688

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

UNCLAIMED MONEY WITH EPFO

Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether a conference of State Labour Ministers was held in Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details and discussion thereof;
- (c) whether there is a large amount of unclaimed money deposited in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has drawn up any scheme for the utilisation of this unclaimed/ dormant money;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to ensure that unclaimed money is neither misused nor disbursed to wrongful claimants;
- (g) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to permit using such money for expansion of social security schemes for unorganised workers; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The State Labour Ministers' Conference was held at New Delhi on 22nd January, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour & Employment. The Conference was attended by Labour Ministers and Senior Officers from 30 State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. The conference had detailed and fruitful discussion on the following issues:

(i) Skill Development & Employment

(a) Modernization/upgradation of existing Industrial Training Institutes .

(b) Restructuring & Modernization of Employment Exchanges.

(c) Establishment of Industrial Training Institutes and Skill Development Centres in Public Private Partnership mode.

(ii) Issues concerning Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act, 2008

(iii) Issues concerning construction workers.

(iv) Issues relating to Contract Labour Act.

(v) Implementation of Employees' State Insurance Scheme in the States.

(vi) Implementation of provisions of abolition of Child Labour in the States.

(c) & (d): The amount in respect of members who have not preferred claim within a period of three years of becoming due or any amount remitted to a person is received back undelivered and is not claimed again within a period of three years is transferred to an account called "In-operative Account". As per Balance Sheet of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the financial year 2008-09, there is a total of Rs.58,92,53,00,941.60 in the In-operative Account. The State-wise details are given at Annexure.

(e) & (f): As the money lying in the In-operative Accounts belong to the members or their heirs and these are payable at any time when the claims are received, the same cannot be utilized for any other purpose. Hence, there is no scheme or plan for utilization of this money.

As and when the member concerned or his/her legal heirs make a claim of his/her PF money, the claims are settled by taking all measures provided under the EPF Scheme and the Manual of Procedures to avoid misuse or wrongful disbursement. Advertisements are being made regularly in the local Newspapers inviting claims for any of those who have not preferred the claims for more than three years after their leaving the job for settlement of their dues from the In-operative Account.

(g) & (h): No proposal has been received from State Governments to utilize the unclaimed money with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for social security of unorganised workers.