

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
DIGITAL SIGNATURES UNDER EPFO
Abdulrahman Shri

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

- (a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made it mandatory for all employers with more than 1000 workers to send their digital signatures to the EPFO;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such employers in the country; and
- (d) the time by which the said process is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

- (a) & (b): No Madam. However, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is implementing the facility for online claim settlement in respect of transfer claims. This facility is optional and the claims can either be filed on line or through physical form. The system will be made operative after digital signature of willing employer or his representative is registered with EPFO. Necessary communication to this effect has already been sent to all employers and the process of registration of digital signature has also begun.
- (c): The electronic challan return (ECR) filed by employers show that the number of employees employed by an establishment changes from month to month. However, an analysis of ECR between February, 2013 to June, 2013 suggests that out of 7,43,045 enrolled establishment under Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, 5232 establishment reported more than 1000 contributing members.
- (d): Registration of digital signature with EPFO is not mandatory. However, field offices of EPFO have been instructed to make maximum efforts to obtain digital signatures of the employers or their representatives.