

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:356

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014

SWAVALAMBAN SCHEME

Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) the key features of the Swavalamban Scheme under the National Pension System (NPS) being implemented for the workers of unorganised sector along with the funds required for the purpose including the number of workers enrolled under the Scheme, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to further extend the Scheme to bolster the retirement savings of the workers and if so, the details thereof including the additional funding by the Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the mechanism put in place by the Government to monitor the Scheme?

**Answer**

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (C): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 356 FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2014 REGARDING 'SWAVALAMBAN SCHEME' BY SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE AND SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO

(a) The Swavalamban Scheme, a co-contributory pension scheme, was launched in September, 2010 to extend the coverage of National Pension Scheme (NPS) to the weaker and economically disadvantaged sections of the society and to encourage them to save voluntarily for their old age. The Scheme was launched with specifically targeted marginal investors. The key feature of the Swavalamban Scheme are as under:

(i) The scheme is not applicable to:

a) a regular employee of the Central or a State Government, or an autonomous body/ PSU of the Central or a State Govt. having employer assisted retirement benefit scheme

b) those covered by any social security scheme under any of the laws namely -

- i. Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952
- ii. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
- iii. The Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966
- iv. The Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund and Pension Fund Scheme Act, 1955
- v. The Jammu and Kashmir Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1961

(ii) Government contributes Rs 1000 per annum to all eligible NPS Swavalamban accounts for period not exceeding five years, where the subscriber deposits a minimum of Rs 1000 to maximum Rs. 12000/- per annum. The co-contribution is available till 2016-17. Since inception of the scheme, Rs.409.14 crore have been released under the scheme as on 26.07.2014.

A total of 2942032 subscribers have been enrolled under the Scheme till date. The State-wise No. of subscribers registered under the scheme as on 26.07.2014 is at Annexure I.

(b) As of now, no decision has been taken in this regard

(c) NPS - Swavalamban is being implemented through intermediaries known as Aggregators appointed by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). PFRDA has formulated guidelines to register entities to provide subscriber services under NPS.

Further with a view to provide protection against any lapse by any aggregators, these entities are required to submit security deposit with PFRDA. There are system and operation level parameters that are required to be followed by all Aggregators.

PFRDA actively monitors activities of Aggregator on weekly basis through periodic reports and MIS from Central Recordkeeping

Agency.