

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1337

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014

MINIMUM PENSION TO LABOURERS

Mullappally Shri Ramachandran; Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

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

- (a) whether a scheme to pay minimum pension to the poor labourers of the organised and unorganised sector of the country is under consideration and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number and percentage of employees of total workforce of the country covered under Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);
- (c) whether the Government has also any proposal for extending the benefits of EPF to all workers irrespective of labour strength of the organisations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which such poor labourers and deprived persons are likely to get the benefits of the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

- (a): The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 is applicable to the establishments employing 20 or more workers. The Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 is one of the Schemes under the Act. Government has notified a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- per month to the pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. Further, the Government is implementing Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. All citizens above the age of 60 years and living below poverty line are eligible for benefits under the scheme. For persons above the age of 80 years, the amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month.
- (b): The statistics regarding total number of workers employed in the organised sector in the country is not maintained centrally. However, as on 31.03.2014, total number of members under the EPF & MP Act, 1952 are 1178.13 lakhs. There are 310 lakhs contributory members as on 30.06.2014.
- (c) to (e): A proposal to reduce the threshold limit from 20 to 10 for coverage under EPF & MP Act, 1952 is under consideration of the Government to bring more workers under the ambit of the Act.