

(a) whether in the past 15 years Government have ever contemplated to alter the scale of benefit to the pensioners in terms of para 32(2) of Employees Pension Fund (EPF) Schemes, 1995; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As per provision of paragraph 32 (2) of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, the Central Government has altered the scale of benefits admissible under this Scheme whenever the actuarial valuation of the Employees' Pension Fund so permitted by declaration of additional relief as below:

1st Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 15.11.1996.

2nd Relief @ 5.5% w.e.f. 01.04.1998.

3rd Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 01.04.1999.

4th Relief @ 4% w.e.f. 01.04.2000.

After 01.04.2000 no relief could be declared as actuarial deficit has been reported by the valuer in all subsequent valuations.

**Increase in administrative expenses on PF and pension funds under EPS**

3138. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the administrative expenses on Provident Fund (PF) and pension funds under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme is increasing in recent years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the expenses incurred during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 and the percentage of the amount taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase is mainly because of the following reasons:

(i) Creation of eight new Regional Offices;

(ii) Computerisation Project with auxiliary supports like purchase of new modular furniture, air-conditioning, Diesel Generator Sets, Electrical Cabin, etc.;

(iii) Increase in Bank Commission on collection of contribution; and

(iv) Increase in the strength of officers and staff.

The expenses incurred on the administration of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 for the year 2008-09 is Rs. 801.57 crore (as per audited Annual Accounts) and for the year 2009-10 it is Rs. 1,075.70 crore (as per the Provisional and Un-audited Annual Accounts). For the current year *i.e.* from April, 2010 to July, 2010, the expenses incurred so far is Rs. 388.77 crore (provisional and un-audited).

No separate administration expense is incurred in the Pension Funds.

**Setting up of registry for domestic workers**

3139. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ratified the International Labour Organization's (ILO) convention concerning rights of domestic workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has fixed minimum wage and other basic working conditions for domestic workers in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has considered setting up a registry of domestic workers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The International Labour Organization (ILO) proposes to adopt an instrument on 'Decent Work for Domestic Workers'. A report in this regard was included as an Agenda item in 99th Session of the International Labour Conference held in June, 2010 at Geneva for discussion about proposed instrument. ILO has not adopted any standard (Convention or Recommendation) on Decent Work for Domestic Workers so far.

(c) and (d) The domestic work falls under the purview of State sphere. State Governments are empowered to include domestic work as scheduled employment under statute for fixation of minimum rates of wages for these workers as per Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Central Government has requested the State Governments to take necessary steps for inclusion of domestic work as employment in the schedule and fixing minimum rates of wages for domestic workers.

(e) Government has constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy framework for domestic workers in the context of regulatory mechanism and providing social security.

**Low income of employed**

3140. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that inspite of having employment, 28 per cent of people are still unable to earn enough to rise above the poverty line;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is 10.8 million unemployed out of the workforce of 459 million in the country; and
- (c) if so, how Government is going to address both the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates on employment and unemployment are