

Amendment of Bonus Act

135. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to amend the Bonus Act, 1964 to effect upward revision of the Bonus amount and to revise the eligibility criterion for the entitlement of Bonus;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amending Bill is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) A proposal regarding amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 to enhance the calculation ceiling from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- and eligibility limit from Rs. 3500/- to Rs. 7500/- as recommended by the Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) is being examined while considering that the benefits of bonus are required to be extended to the employees of Public Sector undertakings (both Central and State), Central and State Governments and Autonomous Organisations besides Private Sector resulting in huge financial burden to the Government exchequer.

Recovery of Outstanding P.F. Deposits

136. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several unexempted organisations in the private sector and in public sector have been defaulting in depositing Provident Fund (PF) contributions with the statutory authorities;

(b) the State-wise details of number of defaultee organisations, togetherwith age-analysis of outstanding P.F. deposits in respective sectors; and

(c) the steps taken and/or contemplated for recovery of outstanding P.F. deposits from the defaultee organisations and protecting the interest of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of defaulting establishments (region wise) in the un-exempted sector are given in the Statement (see below)

The details of outstanding dues in respect of defaulting establishments as on 1st April during the last five years (un-exempted sector) are given below:—

Year	Amount in default
1999-2000	Rs. 589.17 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 766.51 crores
2001-2002	Rs. 953.04 crores
2002-2003	Rs. 1125.87 crores
2003-2004	Rs. 1328.71 crores

(c) On detection of default action is taken to secure compliance through quasi-judicial proceedings, penal actions such as inquiry under section-14B, interest under Sec-7Q and even prosecution under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Statement

Public Sector and Private Sector Outstanding Arrears as on 31.3.2004 Unexempted Sector

		(Rs. in Lakhs)					
S.No.	Region	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	
		No. of defaulting estts.	Amt. Involved	No. of defaulting estts.	Amt. Involved	No. of defaulting estts.	Amt. Involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54	1939.82	10838	8028.38	10892	9968.20
2.	Bihar	22	3284.36	422	559.44	444	3843.80
3.	Chhattisgarh	2	5.97	501	472.43	503	478.40
4.	Delhi	0	0.00	510	1810.56	510	1810.56
5.	Goa	0	0.00	348	257.77	348	257.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	22	154.49	3743	5437.89	3765	5592.38
7.	Haryana	4	123.11	1015	5327.07	1019	5450.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2.18	185	401.23	186	403.41
9.	Jharkhand	3	390.83	523	1878.02	526	2268.85
10.	Karnataka	19	805.77	3283	6246.01	3302	7051.78
11.	Kerala	49	822.27	2774	5529.37	2823	6351.64
12.	Madhya Pradesh	42	5465.43	1889	3632.35	1931	9097.78
13.	Maharashtra	40	4011.90	1842	15442.86	1882	19454.76
14.	N-E Region	45	2189.21	326	2693.64	371	4882.85
15.	Orissa	199	6200.95	803	4812.11	1002	11013.06
16.	Punjab	94	1348.11	5264	2720.38	5358	4068.49
17.	Rajasthan	7	1215.66	2587	1899.32	2594	3114.98
18.	Tamil Nadu	36	686.82	10966	13343.19	11002	14030.01
19.	Uttaranchal	25	1349.14	448	287.05	473	1636.19
20.	Uttar Pradesh	72	7417.15	1261	5067.49	1333	12484.64
21.	West Bengal	54	1392.98	1672	8218.42	1726	9611.40
TOTAL		790	38806.15	51200	94064.98	51990	132871.13

Difficulties being faced by the EPF Account Holders

137. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Account holders are facing difficulties in getting withdrawal from their fund account;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that EPF Account holders are harassed by the EPF officers;

(c) if so, the number of such complaints received by Government during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) the action taken in each of these cases; and