

Investment of EPFO's money in equities

1510. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has been demanding the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to invest 15 per cent of their money in equities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of the EPFO thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The Finance Ministry is not demanding the Employees' Fund Organisation to invest 15 per cent of their money in Equities.

People committing suicide due to joblessness

†1511. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people committed suicide across the country due to joblessness during the year 2009;

(b) if so, the number of people in the country who committed suicide due to joblessness between the year 2009 and 2010; and

(c) the names of such States where number of people committing suicide due to joblessness has been highest and lowest?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) As per available information, 2472 persons committed suicide due to unemployment during 2009 which is 1.9 per cent of total suicides committed in the year.

(c) Highest number of 428 people committed suicide due to unemployment in West Bengal. In North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Island and Daman and Diu, no one committed suicide due to unemployment.

Report of Wage Board for Journalists

1512. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Wage Board for Journalists has submitted its report on 31 December, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Government is aware that some of the newspapers/media houses have still not implemented the interim report of Wage Board;
- (d) if so, the names of such newspapers/media houses;
- (e) the reasons for non-implementation of the interim report of Wage Board by various newspapers; and
- (f) by when the arrears of Wage Board is likely to be paid to Journalists?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Wage Boards are under consideration of the Government. Only after approval of the Cabinet, the recommendations would be notified in the Gazette of India for implementation.

(c) to (e) After the Interim rates of wages were notified by the Central Government, the State Governments, being the appropriate Government, were asked to get the interim rates of wages implemented by the newspaper establishments in their respective States/UTs. The details are being collected from all the State Governments and Union Territories.

(f) After the approval by the Cabinet, the recommendations of the Wage Boards would be notified for implementation and arrears paid as per the notification.

Exploitation of children by placement agencies in Delhi

†1513. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that some placement agencies by providing small loans to poor, force their minor children to work for free and thus exploit them;
- (b) the number of such cases which have come to the notice of Government during the past two years;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to take cognizance of such matters and to prevent them; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to provide justice to concerned people and punish the erring people?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) As per the available information, no such incidence has come to the notice of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.