

one of the aspects. EPF not only caters for the old age income security of the workers through Provident Fund and Employees' Pension Scheme but also takes care of their financial requirements when they are in dire monetary need due to exigencies like disease, education of children, building houses etc. Since the social obligations are also to be necessarily met, EPF gives the facility of partial withdrawal from their Provident Fund for specified purposes.

Non-notification of interest rate hike on EPF

275. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has refused to approve and notify the raise in the interest rate on Provident Fund from 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent for 2010-11 as decided by the EPFO trustees in September, 2010; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of this Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) The Ministry of Finance has raised certain observations on the accuracy of calculation of surplus for declaring interest at the rate of 9.5 per cent for the year 2010-11 and so far has not approved it.

(b) The Ministry of Labour & Employment has clarified all the points raised by the Ministry of Finance and again requested to consider and approve the recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (CBT, EPF).

Non-contribution of PF amount by public schools

†276. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

(a) whether managements of country's public schools, including Maharashtra's, deposit the amount of Provident Fund (PF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/or being taken by Government against the managements of these schools for not depositing the amount of Provident Fund?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Most of the schools in the country including in Maharashtra are depositing Provident Fund.

(b) and (c) At the end of Finance year 2009-10, there were 22127 schools covered in India under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 having membership of 10,88,328. The specific details of public schools in the State of Maharashtra are as under:

Name of the office in Maharashtra	No. of schools covered	No. of schools reporting compliance
Nagpur	17	16
Mumbai-I	4	4
Mumbai-II	540	468
Mumbai-III	405	395
Pune	226	202

Non-remittance of dues/returns is the main reason for not depositing the contribution by some schools.

(d) Following actions are taken against the defaulting schools:

1. Action under section 7A of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for quantification of provident fund dues and raising demand against defaulters.
2. Recovery action as provided under section 8B to 8G is taken which includes:
 - i. Action under section 8F for prohibiting 3rd parties including bankers against payment due to the defaulter and appropriating it against provident fund dues.
 - ii. Attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulting establishments.
 - iii. Appointment of receiver to run the business of the defaulting establishments.
 - iv. Arrest and detention of defaulter.

3. Action under section 14 of the Act for prosecution of the defaulters before the courts of law.
4. Action under section 14B for levying damages as penalty - a deterrent action.
5. Prosecution under section 406/409 IPC - for non-payment of employees share deducted from the wages but not deposited.
6. Action under section 7Q for levy of interest for belated remittances.

Upgradation of ITIs in the country

277. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) all over the country;
- (b) if so, how many ITIs have been covered under this scheme in Bihar; and
- (c) the details of amount sanctioned and provided to those ITIs in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Yes, Sir. Union Government has been implementing the following three schemes for upgradation of Government ITIs all over the country:

- (i) Upgradation of 100 ITIs into Centers of Excellence (CoE) through domestic funding.
 - (ii) Upgradation of 400 ITIs through Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP) with World Bank Assistance.
 - (iii) Upgradation of the remaining 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership.
- (b) 21 ITIs have been covered under above schemes in Bihar.
 - (c) An amount of Rs.55.90 crore has been sanctioned/allocated and Rs. 41.27 crore has been released to these ITIs.

The breakup of funds sanctioned/allocated and released to these ITIs of Bihar under the above schemes is enclosed as Statement.