

(b) The ITES-BPO enterprises fall under the State Sphere. Hence, this kind of information is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable to IT Sector employees in the country.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

#### **Rate of interest on EPF and PPF**

374. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on EPF for 2005-06 has been fixed at 8.5 per cent pa.;

(b) if so, the rate of interest fixed for PPF;

(c) why there is difference in the rate of interest in these two categories of provident funds; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce administrative expenditure on EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the rate of interest for the year 2005-06 @ 8.5%.

(b) The rate of interest on PPF was fixed at 8.0% for the year 2003-04 and since then the same rate of interest is being continued for the Financial Year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) The two schemes are different in terms of the subscriber base, mechanism for deployment of proceeds, housing of the funds, payments to subscribers and risks associated therewith.

(d) All administrative expenditure is incurred judiciously in accordance with the instructions issued by the government from time to time and by observing standards of financial propriety.

#### **Rate of interest on EPF**

375. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had finally decided to reduce the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent for

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the fiscal year 2005-06 as against only 8 per cent recommended by the EPF board;

(b) if so, what steps were taken to find additional resources to restore the EPF rate of interest to 9.5 per cent such as the Special Depository Scheme; if so, with what result; and

(c) the reaction and response to the Labour and workers' Organisations to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Government has notified the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund for the year 2005-06 @ 8.5%.

(b) and (c) The interest rate of 8.5% has been declared after taking into consideration the earnings of the Employees Provident Fund for 2005-06 and certain other internal resources.

References/representations have been received from Labour Unions and their organizations, protesting against reduction of interest rate.

#### **Dues on Corporate Houses in respect of EPF**

376. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Employees Provident Fund arrears due to various corporates till date; and

(b) what special efforts are being made to recover the arrears from defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The amount of arrears outstanding as on 30.09.2005 was Rs. 2,429.97 crore.

(b) The actions taken against the defaulters include prosecution under Section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of movable/immovable property and arrest of defaulters.