

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is mulling over fixing the minimum pension for its subscribers at Rs. 1,000 a month;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to raise additional fund requirement for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Pension Implementations of the Committee (PIC) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to increase the minimum pension amount to Rs. 1,000/- per month for its subscribers is to be placed before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund [CBT(EPF)] in its ensuing meeting for its consideration.

(c) The recommendation of the PIC to increase minimum pension to Rs. 1,000/- per month as per actuarial valuation would require 0.63 per cent increase in the contribution of 8.33 per cent. Any follow-up action would arise only after consideration by CBT (EPF).

#### **Setting up of Welfare Boards**

3206. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of laws in existence which provide social security benefits to the building and construction workers;

(b) whether there are any impediments in its implementation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of State Governments which have constituted Welfare Boards under the Act;

(e) if not, whether Government has issued any directions to the State Governments and Union Territories for the setting up of Welfare Boards; and

(f) the total amount collected so far and passed on to the State Welfare Boards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) The Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of

Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 with a view to regulating the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and provide for their safety, health and welfare measures etc. Under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, every State Government has to constitute a State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. The functions of the Board include providing welfare and social security measure such as immediate assistance to a beneficiary in case of accident, payment of pension to the beneficiaries who have completed the age of 60 years, loan and advances for construction of house, paying amount in connection with premia for Group Insurance Scheme etc.

(d) and (e) As per the information received from the States/UTs, 33 States/UTs have constituted the Welfare Boards. The Central Government has issued directions to the concerned State Governments/UTs to set up the Welfare Board under Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

(f) Under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996, a cess @ 1% of the construction cost is collected by the State and given to the respective Welfare Boards for meeting the expenses on welfare of construction workers. As per information received from States/UTs total amount of cess collected upto 30.6.2011 is Rs. 5265.57 crore (approximate).

#### **New cells in employment exchange for girls**

†3207. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, keeping in view the growing interest of girls in education and jobs, there is a need to open new cells in employment exchanges of every State for receiving the applications of the girl so that the State-wise factual data can be collected about the applications of the girls;

(b) whether Government proposes to reserve a certain percentage of jobs in all types of Government jobs so that the girls can have proper place in Government jobs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.