

Norms for opening of office of EPFO

125. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed norms for opening and operating Zonal, Regional and subregional office in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), particularly in cities like Delhi;

(b) whether these norms are being strictly followed;

(c) if so, the details of cases where the norms have not been followed along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any plan to open small offices of EPFO to make services accessible to industrial workers as well as to improve administrative efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) Zonal offices and Regional Offices are opened as per the administrative requirement with the approval of Central Board of Trustees, EPF. Norms for opening Sub-Regional Offices and Service centres were devised by National Productivity Council and approved by Executive Committee of Central Board of Trustees, EPF, in its 29th meeting held on 04.12.98. These norms for opening sub-Regional Office and Service Centre are for all over India except Jammu and Kashmir as Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is not applicable in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Proposals for opening offices is examined as per norms. In some of the cases norms are relaxed by the Competent Authority keeping in view the interest of the subscribers.

Details of such cases for the last 5 to 6 years are:- Sub-Regional Offices at Yelahanka, Tumkur, Bharuch, Allahabad, Nagercoil, Mysore Road, Udupi, Karimnagar, Siddipet, Sagar, Shimoga, Keonjhar and Belgaum.

(d) Keeping in view the ongoing as well as proposed computerization which envisages "any time-anywhere" service to workers, norms for opening of Sub-Regional Office, Service Center and District Office are being revisited by National Productivity Council.

Employment exchange

126. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges functioning across the country, State and Union Territory-wise;