

(b) whether they are eligible to be covered under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and the Aam Admi Bima Yojana; and

(c) if so, how many of them have been covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Yes, Sir. As per census 2001, number of agricultural labourers was 10.67 crore out of which 5.73 crore were male and 4.94 crore female workers. The data of census 2011 has so far been released only provisionally which do not include this data.

(b) and (c) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) provides smart card based cashless health insurance, including maternity benefit, cover of Rs.30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families, including landless agricultural workers, in the unorganised sector. As on 30.11.2012, more than 3.31 crore smart cards have been issued under RSBY to the eligible families. Similarly Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) provides insurance cover to the head of family or one earning member of rural landless households. More than 1.77 crore lives are covered under AABY as on 31.10.2012.

PF cases awaiting settlement

2904. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Provident Fund (PF) cases have been awaiting settlement and facing innumerable problems in their settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending for settlement and the obstacles being faced in the settlement;

(d) whether Government has issued any guidelines for sorting out their problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) As on 13.12.2012 (for the period from 01.04.2012 to 13.12.2012), out of 107.16 Lakh claims received for settlement order, only 6.96 Lakh claims are pending for settlement.

The obstacles faced in settlement of claims *inter-alia* include:

- (i) Incomplete claims (no bank account number, incomplete employee details, etc.)
- (ii) Incorrect claims (wrong account number, incorrect personal details, etc.)
- (iii) Unattested claims
- (iv) Unsigned claims
- (v) Default by employer in terms of remittance/returns.

(d) and (e) As per the provisions contained in para 72(7) of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, all claims found in order are to be settled within 30 days. Employees of the covered establishments are guided through print media, seminar and training of the employers for submitting error free claims.

Instructions have been issued to field offices to monitor the status of settlement of claims in their region on regular basis and take corrective steps to settle the claims within the stipulated time-frame.

EPF subscribers getting meagre pension of Rs. 1000

2905. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Employees Provident Fund (EPF) pensioners are getting only a meager amount as pension well below Rs. 1000/- per mensem;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the EPF pensioners who are getting below Rs. 1000/- per mensem as pension; and

(c) whether Government will consider giving Rs. 1000/- as minimum pension to all EPF pensioners per mensem with retrospective effect from 1 April, 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of pensioners who are getting pension less than Rs. 1000/- per month is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) A proposal to enhance the minimum pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 to Rs.1000/- is under consideration of the Government.