

News/Rozgar Samachar" and also display the recruitment notice on the Office Notice Board and then consider the cases of all the candidates.

Unemployment rate in Bihar vis-a-vis national average

2911. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the level of unemployment in Bihar is 8.3 per cent, which is 2.5 times more than the national average of unemployment;
- (b) whether there is a stagnation of employment rates as a result of the lack of adequate employment opportunities in Bihar;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating measures to generate employment opportunities to bring it at par with the national average; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). Last quinquennial labour force survey was conducted during 2009-10. As per results of the most recent survey, unemployment rate on current daily status basis was estimated at 5.7 per cent in Bihar as compared to 6.6 per cent for the country during 2009-10.

(b) Details of employment rate (%) based on current daily status basis in Bihar during 2004-05 and 2009-10 is given below:

	2004-05	2009-10
Rural	35.5	34.6
Urban	33.4	32.9

(c) and (d) Government of India is making continuous efforts for generating employment opportunities in the country including Bihar through normal growth process in general and targeting state specific sectoral growth rates and also through Backward Regions Grand Fund (BRGF) in particular. Government of India is also implementing employment generation schemes through state governments such as Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) besides entrepreneurial development programmes run by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Amount of EPFO invested in private sector

†2912. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) invested in private sector, non-banking companies during the last three years and the current year along with the profit earned on these investments;

(b) whether Chief Investment Advisor of Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) has decided to reduce the maximum period of investment in private sector, non-banking companies to ten years;

(c) if so, the details of major decisions taken by Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) and the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Details of amount invested by the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) in private sector, non-banking companies and annual return as per the coupon rate during the last three years and current year are as under:

<i>(Rs in crore)</i>		
Year	Amount Invested	Annual Return
2009-10	575.40	51.20
2010-11	2433.20	220.59
2011-12	1181.80	111.19
April, 2012 to November, 2012	Nil	Nil

As the securities are not sold by EPFO in market, there is no question of earning any profit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.