

**Funds to organisations running Vocational Training Centres**

‡4600. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing funds to various organisations to run vocational training centres in the country including Uttar Pradesh especially for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof along with that of funds provided to this sector during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) to (c) Government of India is not providing funds to Organisations for running Vocational Training Centres in the country especially for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes. However, Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE&T) is implementing following schemes for upgrading training infrastructure in Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in all the States and Union Territory Administrations.

- I. Upgradation of 1396 Government ITIs in PPP mode: Under this project total of Rs. 3067.50 Crore has been released for upgradation of 1227 ITIs in the country.
- II. Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP): Under this scheme central share of Rs. 1015.75 Crore has been released covering 400 ITIs and 14 centrally funded institutions for upgradation of training infrastructure.
- III. Skill Development Initiative (SDI): Under this scheme Rs. 554.69 crore of funds have been released towards reimbursement of training and assessment cost to vocational training providers and candidates.

**DA to EPF pensioners**

4601. SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) number of Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme pensioners as on 31 March, 2013 receiving less than Rs. 500 and those receiving more than Rs. 500 but less than Rs. 1,000/- monthly pension;

(b) number of representations received by Government against meagre pension and demanding its revision in the last five years and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) the reasons for not revising pension rates fixed nearly two decades ago;

(d) whether these pensioners get Dearness Allowance (D.A.) like Central Government pensioners; and

(e) if so, the number of times and rates at which such D.A. have been granted, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) As per the statistics available upto 31.03.2012, the number of pensioners receiving pension less than Rs. 500/- p.m. is around 12 lakh and those receiving more than Rs. 500 and less than Rs. 1000/- is around 16.05 lakh.

(b) A number of representations have been received against meager pension and demanding increase in the pension. In order to address this issue, the Government of India constituted an Expert Committee for reviewing the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 on 12.06.2009. The recommendation of the Expert Committee was considered by Pension Implementation Committee (PIC), a sub-Committee of Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), which *inter-alia* recommended that a minimum monthly pension under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 be increased to Rs. 1000/- per month as an interim measure. The recommendation of the PIC was considered by CBT, EPF. However, the discussion remained inconclusive. A proposal for providing minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- under EPS, 1995 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Central Government appoints Valuer under Para 32 of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 for annual valuation of Employees' Pension Fund. Depending on the valuation report, the Central Government declared additional relief whenever Pension Fund permitted to do so. From 5th valuation of Employees' Pension Fund as on 31.3.2001, the fund is showing continuous deficit, therefore, pension could not be revised by the Central Government.

However, the following categories of pension were increased w.e.f. 29.01.2000 in the following manner.

Category of Pension	Increased from	Increased to
Widow/Widower Pension	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 450/-
Children Pension	Rs. 115/-	Rs. 150/-
Orphan Pension	Rs. 170/-	Rs. 250/-

(d) and (e) On the basis of the annual valuations carried out by the valuer appointed by the Central Government, the Central Government grants relief to pensioners, if the Employees' Pension Fund shows surplus. The first four valuations showed surplus and accordingly relief of 4%, 5.5%, 4% & 4% was granted during 1996 to 2000. However, no relief has been declared by the Central Government after 31.03.2000 as the fund is showing continuous deficit thereafter.

#### **Passbook for PF account holders**

†4602. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presently the number of dormant accounts in Employees Provident Fund Organisation is more than three crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an amount of sixteen thousand crores of rupees belongs to the poor labourers of unorganised sector;

(c) the arrangements being made by Government to handover the amount to the concerned labourers;

(d) whether Government would provide passbooks to the labourers from unorganised sector at the time of deduction of PF account, so that in the event of change in working place their PF account remains the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) There are no dormant accounts in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). However, as per provision of para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, a member's

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