

Aadhaar card mandatory for PF transactions

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

- (a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made it mandatory to submit Aadhaar Card details of employees for any PF transactions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the distribution of Aadhaar Cards has not been completed and people are facing innumerable problems in getting card;
- (d) the arrangements made by Government to provide it to all the citizens quickly and in time;
- (e) whether Workers' Unions have requested EPFO to put off the decision of submission of Aadhaar Card details in view of the non-completion of the distribution of Aadhaar Cards; and
- (f) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) and (b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), *vide* their letter dated 21st January, 2013, made it mandatory to submit Aadhaar number details for the New EPF members joining on or after March 1, 2013. Subsequently, during discussions with Unique Identification Authority Of India, it emerged that UID is not enrolled in all the States. Therefore, it was decided not to make Aadhaar number mandatory for new members joining on or after March 1, 2013 and these revised instructions were issued by EPFO *vide* their letter dated 6th February, 2013.

(c) and (d) As on date 23.5 crore Aadhaar letters have been dispatched.

The Department of Posts, currently the delivery partner monitoring the delivery of the Aadhaar letters, has issued instructions to all the Postal Circles for their smooth and timely delivery.

Additional measures by way of e-Aadhaar and using the Short Messaging Service (SMS) for communicating the Aadhaar number have been operationalized.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, EPFO had already reconsidered its decision to make Aadhaar mandatory for new members joining on or after March 1, 2013.