

shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the Principal Employer of the establishment on the same for similar kind of work. Provided that in case of any disagreement with regard to that type of work the same shall be decided by the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The Act also makes it mandatory for the contractors/employers to pay minimum wages fixed by the Government. If the contractor fails to pay the minimum wages to the contract labour, the Act makes it obligatory for the Principal Employers to pay the same.

(c) and (d) A proposal to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act is under the consideration of the Government.

Private placement agencies under the scanner of EPFO

1501. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether private placement agencies supplying contract workers to Government Departments have come under the scanner of EPFO for allegedly stripping workers of salaries and evading Provident Fund (PF) payments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government along with its Public Sector Units employes about 18.4 lakh contract workers from housekeeping, security and IT related work and the principal employer is responsible to pay PF which is not enforced in true spirit by various Government Departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the necessary steps taken on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) Some instances of private placement agencies defaulting in remittance of Provident Fund dues have come to the notice of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) As per statistics available with EPFO, as on 30-11-2013, 763 private placement agencies are reported to have violated the provisions of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 out of a total number of more than 16000 such establishments.

(c) The Central Government along with its Public Sector Units (PSUs)

employ significant number of contract workers through outsourcing mode. They are responsible, as principal employers, to pay Provident Fund in respect of these contract workers in accordance with Paragraph 30 of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952.

(d) Provisions have been made in the official Website of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation whereby the principal employers, including various Government Departments, both at the Centre and States, can check the payment of Provident Fund made by the private placement agencies deployed by them.

The following actions are taken against the erring private placement agencies which fail to pay the Provident Fund benefits to their workers:

1. Action under Section 7A of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is taken against the defaulting establishments for assessment of dues.
2. Action under Section 14B of the Act is taken for levying of damages of belatedly deposit of dues.
3. Action under Section 7Q of the Act is taken for levy of interest for belated remittances.
4. Recovery actions as provided under Section 8B to 8G of the Act are taken.
5. Action under Section 14 of the act is taken for filing prosecution against the defaulters before the Competent Court of Law.
6. Action under Section 406/409 of IPC is taken against the employer for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages/salary of the employees but not deposited in the fund.

Fraudulent withdrawal from PF Accounts

1502. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several crores of rupees have been withdrawn from the Provident Fund accounts through fake withdrawal claims;