

improved quality of service and equity, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 12.12.2012 to examine “Whether any restrictions be imposed on Multi System Operators (MSOs)/ Local Cable Operators (LCOs) to prevent monopolies/ accumulation of interest. If yes, what restrictions should be imposed and what should be the form, nature and scope of such restrictions”.

TRAI sent its recommendations to the Ministry on 26th November, 2013. These recommendations are available on the TRAI website: <http://www.trai.gov.in>.

TRAI recommendations are being examined as per extant guidelines.

#### **Interest rate on EPF**

†2739. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to increase the interest rate on Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF) for the year 2013-14;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that EPF account holders had demanded 9 per cent interest rate on EPF;
- (d) the details of amount deposited with EPFO at present; and
- (e) the reasons for not increasing interest rate upto 9 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) and (b) Central Board of Trustees (CBT) Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF) in its 202nd meeting has recommended 8.75% interest rate for 2013-14 which is an increase of 0.25% over the previous year 2012-13. The proposal rate is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Employees’ representatives of CBT, EPF have been demanding an increase in the interest rate on EPF. However, interest rate depends upon the earning on the investment of the fund.

(d) Corpus of Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) comprising Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Schemes is Rs. 4,73,145.59 Crores on face value as on 31.3.2013.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The details are as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
1. Central Govt. Securities	1,16,302.61
2. State Govt./Govt. Guaranteed Securities.	82,222.33
3. Special Deposit Scheme	54,133.11
4. Public Sector Financial Institutions (Including Pvt. Sector bonds)	1,50,513.51
5. Public Account	69,974.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,73,145.59</b>

(e) The interest rate depends upon the earning on the investment of the fund. On the basis of the present earning, CBT, EPF has proposed an interest of 8.75%.

#### **Equal remuneration for men and women workers**

2740. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that women are paid lesser wages than men for the same work from small businesses to large organisations to the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, whether Government has failed to enforce or implement Equal Remuneration Act, 1973 effectively which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for work of similar nature; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of inspection conducted and prosecutions of those found violating the Act during the last three years and the current year; and,

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government to tackle gender-based disparity?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the difference in the earning of male and female workers at the industry and occupational level may not be necessarily indicating the violation of provisions of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. This difference may be due to seniority/length of service, difference in output, difference in working hours etc. At occupational level differences may be attributed to difference in employment status *i.e.* permanent/temporary/casual and/or difference in educational/technical qualifications, experience etc.

Whenever violations of provisions of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are noticed, action as prescribed under the Act is initiated. In the Central Sphere, office of Chief Labour