

Medical benefits to pensioners of EPFO

1973. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether EPFO's Pension and EDLI Implementation Committee (PEIC) has recently decided to extend medical benefits to its pensioners and has forwarded to the Ministry for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pensioners of EPFO have not been extended any medical facilities/benefits till now;

(d) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) how many pensioners will be benefited if such a scheme is implemented; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to extend such benefits to pensioners and their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) A proposal for providing medical benefits to the pensioners of Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is under consideration of the Pension and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (EDLI) Implementation Committee (PEIC) of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF).

(c) and (d) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF and MP) Act, 1952 and the Schemes framed thereunder do not have any provision for providing medical benefits to the pensioners of Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995.

(e) and (f) There are 46,90,667 pensioners under EPS, 1995 as on 31.03.2014 who would be benefited, if medical benefits are provided under EPS, 1995.

Wage and service conditions of petrol pump operators

1974. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any rules that regulate wage and service conditions of petrol pump operators;

(b) the State-wise petrol pump operators working at present in the country; and

(c) whether it is a fact that petrol pump operators are deprived of minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are appropriate Government to fix the minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. So far as wages of petrol pump operators are concerned, the minimum wages are fixed for these workers by the State Governments.

(b) No such information is maintained by this Ministry.

(c) No specific information pertaining to non-payment of minimum wages to petrol pump operators is available in this Ministry.

Promotion and conversion of vast mineral resources

†1975. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote and conserve vast mineral resources of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per National Mineral Policy 2008, conservation of mineral shall be construed not in the restrictive sense of abstinence from consumption or preservation for use in the distant future but as a positive concept leading to augmentation of reserve base through improvement in mining methods, beneficiation and utilisation of low grade ore and rejects and recovery of associated minerals. The Government is aiming for an adequate and effective legal and institutional framework mandating zero waste mining as the ultimate goal and a commitment to prevent sub-optimal and unscientific mining. Mineral Sectoral value addition through latest technique of beneficiation, calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and general customising of product is being encouraged.

The Government has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957, through the MMDR Amendment Act 2015 with effect

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.