

**Implementation of Majithia Wage Board**

1851. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Wage Board under the Chairmanship of Justice Majithia has submitted its final report to Government;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the report; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for early implementation of the recommendations of the National Wage Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The Majithia Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper Employees constituted under Section 9 and 13C, respectively, of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1955 have submitted their reports to the Government in December, 2010.

(b) The salient features of the report are:

- (i) The revised pay comprises of variable pay at the rate of 35 per cent for employees working in the first four classes of newspaper establishments (first two classes news agencies) and 20 per cent for the bottom four classes of newspaper establishments (bottom two classes for news agencies).
- (ii) All allowances, such as HRA, Transport Allowance and Leave Travel Allowances etc. will be computed by taking the sum of total of the revised basic pay and the variable pay applicable to an employee.
- (iii) The rate of neutralization of DA should be 100 per cent of basic pay for calculation of all allowances.
- (iv) The annual rate of increment should be between 2% and 4% of the revised basic pay.
- (v) The House rent allowance should be at the rate of 30%, 20% and 10 % and accordingly areas/cities should be classified into 3 categories *i.e.* X,Y and Z for this purpose.
- (vi) The transport allowance should be 20%, 10% and 5% in the respective areas defined as Area X,Y and Z.
- (vii) Night Shift allowance range between ₹ 100 and ₹ 50 for different classes of establishments.

(c) The Government accepted and notified the recommendations of the Board. Since the primary responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the Wage

Boards lies with the State Governments/UTs, they were requested to take appropriate steps for its early implementation. Six meetings of the Central Level Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Labour and Employment Advisor have been held in various parts of the country to monitor the progress of implementation of the recommendations of Wage Boards by the respective State/UTs.

All the Chief Ministers of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to ensure implementation of Majithia Wage Board recommendations by sensitizing the Government machinery.

### **Speedy disposal of EPF claims**

1852. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to bring in more employees from Public and Private sector into the ambit of EPF, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the zone-wise total number of EPF accounts and the amount accumulated in their accounts as on 31st March, 2015;

(c) the number of EPF accounts not updated and the undistributed interest lying in Interest Suspense Account and the closed balance as per the consolidated Annual Accounts of the EPFO till 31st March, 2015; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the speedy disposal of the EPF claims of the EPF subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF and MP) Act, 1952, any establishment, whether belonging to public sector or private sector, carrying out activities as mentioned in Schedule-I of the Act and notified class of establishments and employing 20 or more persons are covered under the EPF and MP Act, 1952.

To bring in more employees into the ambit of EPF and MP Act, 1952, removal of the Schedule and reduction of threshold limit for coverage from existing 20 to 10 have been included in the comprehensive amendment to the EPF and MP Act, 1952 which is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The details of zone-wise Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) accounts and the amount accumulated in these accounts as on 31st March, 2015 are in the Statement-I and II (*See below*).