

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar and Uttar Pradesh	40	7868	7898	10
Andhra Pradesh and Odisha	425	16023	16296	152
Karnataka and Goa	992	23500	24312	180
Tamil Nadu and Kerala	466	21747	22152	61
West Bengal and North-East Region	85	10732	10782	34
Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh	1848	41529	42360	1017
Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh	60	7422	7474	8
Head Office/Others	446	14800	10004	656
TOTAL	4587	184480	182321	2159

#### Unclaimed provident funds

2639. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than ₹ 9000 crore provident funds are unclaimed from Government so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for unclaimed provident funds;

(c) whether Government is considering to put such unclaimed names on Government website for facilitation of the beneficiaries to track their accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) There is no unclaimed amount in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF). However, as per para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, certain amounts are classified as 'Inoperative Accounts' in which contributions have not been received for thirty six months continuously. All such Inoperative Accounts have, however, definite claimants.

(b) As per Annual Account of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), ₹ 27,448.54 crores has been classified as Inoperative Accounts of Employees' Provident Fund as on 31.03.2014.

The reasons for such inoperative accounts are as under:

(i) The members after switching the job from one covered establishment to another do not get the funds transferred to their present account. As a result, the old account becomes inoperative after thirty six months.

(ii) The interest earned on the deposits with EPFO is exempted from Income Tax. Therefore, there exists an incentive of leaving the balance amount with EPFO.

(iii) Such deposits are safe and secure investments and cannot be attached even by a decree of any Court.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the following steps have been taken by EPFO to facilitate the beneficiaries to claim their provident fund accumulations:

(i) EPFO has launched a portal namely 'Inoperative Accounts Online Help Desk' to assist the members to identify their inoperative accounts.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to reconcile the Inoperative Accounts on priority and further identify the beneficiaries through employers.

(iii) EPFO has allotted unique permanent numbers to its members called Universal Account Number (UAN) which will enable to identify the members without intermediation of the employers.

Besides, awareness campaigns have been undertaken through the electronic as well as print media from time to time to educate the members to transfer or withdraw their PF accumulations.

As a result of the above steps, the total amount paid to the beneficiaries from inoperative accounts has shown an increase in the last three years. The total amount paid out of inoperative accounts during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount settled (₹ in crore)
2011-12	955.51
2012-13	2890.40
2013-14	4316.71

#### **Employment opportunities for handicapped**

2640. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and district-wise number of handicapped job-seekers from Andhra Pradesh during last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number is going up every year and placements have come down during the above period;

(c) if so, how Ministry is planning to bridge the gap and increase employment opportunities for handicapped;