the last few years as much as 20 per cent in comparison to EPFO's 8.75 per cent return;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the EPFO is exploring various options to incentivise its subscribers to keep money in Provident Fund accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is entrusted to implement the provisions of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 and Schemes framed thereunder which mandate coverage of workers of certain categories of establishments. Presently, there is no option for the employees covered under the Act to opt for National Pension System (NPS).

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the Question above.

Construction of houses for beedi workers in Chhattisgarh

†2643. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for construction of houses for beedi workers and for rehabilitation of bonded labourers of Raigarh district in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) whether the amount of assistance to be provided by the Centre for (a) above, has been provided, if not, by when it would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2007 for beedi workers is being implemented in the country through the 17 Welfare Commissioners of the Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry. The housing subsidy of ₹ 40,000/- is given in two equal installments to the workers for construction of houses. The RIHS, 2007 is applicable to the Chhattisgarh State beedi workers also.

An amount of ₹ 10.00 lakh as 1st installment for 50 houses to beedi workers was sanctioned in 2007-08 for Village-Chaple, Raigarh District in Chhattisgarh State. The inspection report and utilization certificate of 50 houses are awaited from the State Government for release of 2nd installment.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For rehabilitated Bonded Labour under the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme, 1978, Central Government has released ₹ 221.5 lakh for rehabilitation of 2215 released bonded labour in Chhattisgarh as on 31.03.2015.

Non deduction of PF by companies in Uttarakhand

†2644. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies in Uttarakhand which are running in loss and did not open the pool for the amount of provident fund deducted from the labourers for the last few years even after directions issued by Government; and

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to protect the provident fund of such labourers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) does not differentiate between profit or loss making companies covered under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF and MP) Act, 1952. However, thirty three establishments covered under the Act in the State of Uttarakhand have defaulted in depositing Provident Fund and allied dues amounting to ₹ 57.96 crore.

(b) EPFO takes following actions against the defaulting companies including those situated in Uttrakhand under the provisions of EPF and MP Act, 1952:

(i) Proceedings under Section 7A of the Act for assessment of dues are initiated.

(ii) Prosecution for non-deposit of dues is launched under Section 14 of the Act.

(iii) First Information Reports (FIRs) are filed under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) for non-deposit of employees' share of contribution recovered from wages of employees and not deposited to EPFO account.

Social security and facilities for workers

†2645. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers working in different industrial units in the country;

(b) the details of number of skilled and semi-skilled labourers out of the above and the kind of trade they are working in; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.