

Organisation (EPFO) wherein it has permitted investment in equity from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. However, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) has decided to invest only in Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). The purpose of this investment by EPFO is to maximize its earnings on investment.

(c) and (d) As per the approval of the CBT, EPFO would invest only upto 5 per cent of its total investment in ETF during this financial year. Investment in ETF started in the month of August, 2015 and a total of ₹ 2909 crores have been invested till 26th November, 2015.

Survey to ascertain number of beedi workers

419. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government undertook any survey recently to ascertain the number of workers engaged in Beedi Industry, which was 44.11 lakhs in 2000-01, across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the number of registered beedi workers as on 30.06.2015 is 48,12,358.

Child labourers in the country

420. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of child labourers in the country;

(b) the details of the effective steps taken by Government for eradication of child labour in the country;

(c) whether Government has formulated child labour project in this regard; and

(d) if so, the State-wise number of child labourers benefited by these projects along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years as per 2011 Census, State-wise is given in Statement-I (*See below*).