

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Skilled and unskilled workers**

1227. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details and percentage of skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled workers in the total unemployed population in the country; and

(b) the details of number of workers out of the above who were provided employment during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) As per the results of labour force survey on employment and unemployment conducted during 2004-05 and 2011-12 by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, estimated employment on usual status basis increased from 45.91 crore during 2004-05 to 47.41 crore during 2011-12. Among persons of age 15-59 years, about 2.2 per cent reported to have received formal vocational training and 8.6 per cent reported to have received non-formal vocational training. The survey of 2011-12 also shows that 52.2% of the workers were self employed, 17.9% were regular wage/salaried employees and 29.9% were casual labour.

**Provident funds entering equity market**

1228. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether this would be the first time that Provident Funds will enter the equity market and whether Government has considered all the risks attached to this move;

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

(c) whether Government will provide a guarantee for such investment in the stock market;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether this move has faced stiff opposition by trade unions, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has entered the equity market through investment in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) has approved the proposal of investing in ETFs after considering the possible risk associated with the investments.

(c) and (d) The Government has not provided any guarantee for such investments in the stock market as investment in such instruments are subject to market movements.

(e) Some of the trade unions have expressed their reservations over the decision to invest in equity as they are concerned about the risk associated with the investments in stock market.

**Financial assistance for undertaking research in labour related matters**

1229. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided financial assistance for undertaking research in labour related matters, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise total number of applicants who have received such financial assistance from Government during the last three years and the current year, including in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Government is providing financial assistance for undertaking research in approved labour related matters under Grants-in-Aid (GIA) to Research and Academic Institutions and Voluntary Organizations (VOs)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The cost of the study is shared between the Ministry and the Research Organization on 75:25 basis. The share of the Government is released in three equal installments.

(c) The State-wise details of applicants who have received such financial assistance from Government during the last three years and the current year, including in Himachal Pradesh are given in the Statement.