

Coverage of RSBY in Puducherry

86. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Employment and Unemployment Survey conducted by the NSSO the casual labour in rural areas in Puducherry is 43 per cent and 21 per cent in urban areas;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons that only one district has been covered under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance of ₹ 30,000; and

(d) the efforts being made to include labour force from other districts under the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Based on the results of Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS), conducted by NSSO during NSS 68th round (July, 2011 – June, 2012), estimated percentage of casual labour in total workforce in usual status (ps+ss) in rural areas in Puducherry was 42.7 per cent and in urban areas it was 21.1 per cent. NSSO release estimates at State level only and does not release district-wise estimates.

(c) and (d) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) is Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *w.e.f.* 01.04.2015, prior to which it was handled by Ministry of Labour and Employment. As of now, RSBY is not under implementation in Puducherry.

Investments by EPFO in AA+ or higher valued bonds

87. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has decided to begin investments in bonds rated AA+ or higher issued by private sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the professional fund managers appointed by the EPFO had asked for relaxing the norms so that more corporate debt becomes eligible for investments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?