

(b) whether any survey has been made by Government to assess migrant labourers moving to the major metropolitan cities; and

(c) 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) Every citizen has a right to migrate to any part of the country. However, Government's effort has been to prevent distress migration. As per Census 2001, 314.54 million persons moved for various reasons within the country. Out of these, 29.90 million migrated for reasons of employment.

(b) and (c) The Government has not conducted any survey regarding the migrant labourers moving to major metropolitan cities. In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Government has enacted Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 which, *inter-alia* provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc.

Reduction in the interest rate on EPF and PF

†425. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reduced the interest rates on EPF and PF, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the facts considered by Government while deciding the interest rates on EPF and PF and whether any definite formula has been prescribed for it; and

(d) 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) Ministry of Finance has ratified the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) interest rates at 8.70 per cent for the financial year 2015-16 against 8.75 per cent for the financial year 2014-15. There is no change in the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) for the financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16, *i.e.*, 8.70 per cent.

(c) and (d) The interest rates on EPF is decided on the basis of recommendations of Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), prevailing investment environment and financial sustainability. The interest rate on GPF is fixed at par with Public Provident Fund (PPF) interest rates.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.