

(c) whether logistics is one of the biggest issues and it makes the cost competitiveness produced by an efficient exporter, unviable; and

(d) whether priority of Government has been to cut down on the logistics challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government effects changes in the Foreign Trade Policy as and when need arises.

(c) and (d) Logistics costs account for a significant part of the Indian non services GDP. In World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), India's ranking has improved from 47th in 2014 to 35th in 2016. The Government of India has launched the Sagarmala Programme to reduce logistics cost for both domestic and EXIM cargo with minimal infrastructure investment. The shelf of projects has been identified and is being implemented under Sagarmala for improving the overall logistics efficiency and competitiveness of exports of the country.

Restructuring of EPFO

*235. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to restructure the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) by creating certain new zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to bring the rural, semi-urban unorganised and contract workers in the fold of EPFO social security and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to increase the EPFO subscriber base?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The Central Board, EPFO in its 213th Meeting held on 8th July, 2016 has approved the proposal of Organizational and Cadre Restructuring in EPFO. In the said proposal, Central Board has approved 11 new zonal offices. No decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF&MP) Act, 1952 is applicable to all establishments employing 20 or more workers and engaged in industries mentioned in Schedule-I of the Act irrespective of whether employed in urban, semi-urban, other areas or a worker covered is a contract worker. A worker is not considered an unorganized worker as per The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 if he is covered under EPF&MP Act, 1952.

(d) In order to increase the EPFO subscriber base, from time to time coverage drives and workers enrolment drives are conducted. Central Analysis and Intelligence Unit has been established in Employees' Provident Fund Organization, Head Office which is providing Information Technology (IT) driven information to field offices to secure the coverage of uncovered establishments and members.

Probe into inaction by officials on gas flowing into RIL field

*236. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched a probe into the role played by ONGC executives and officials in the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) for their alleged inaction on information about gas from the State run block in the Krishna-Godavari Basin flowing into an adjacent field of Reliance Industries (RIL); and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken against the officials who are found responsible for any lapse or lapses, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Committee under Justice (Retd.) A.P. Shah to look into the dispute of gas migration between RIL and ONGC relating to ONGC Blocks (KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML) and RIL Block KG-DWN-98/3 in KG Basin. The terms of reference of the Committee also included consideration of the acts of omission and commission, if any, on part of the stakeholders including RIL, ONGC, DGH and Government and give recommendations on them. Committee has submitted its report, and its recommendations have been accepted by the Government.

The Committee, in its report has observed that the 2003 Appraisal Report *prima facie* reveals that RIL had prior knowledge about connectivity and continuity of reservoirs, and did not bring the contents and findings of the 2003 Appraisal Report