

a total of 1.43 lakh Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) claims are pending with Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) for settlement.

As per the provisions of paragraph 72(7) of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952, claims complete in all respects, are to be settled within 20 days. Therefore, at any given point of time, fresh receipt upto 20 days may be pending for settlement. However, claims which are pending during 20 days are settled in the same cycle of settlement. 97.26 per cent of total claims are settled within 20 days.

(d) The following steps have been taken by EPFO for speedy settlement of claims:

- (i) EPFO has allotted a unique Universal Account Number (UAN) to its members for portability and consolidation of all previous accounts. The employees whose details like Aadhaar Number or Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Bank Account Numbers have been seeded in their UAN and whose UAN have been activated by their employers, may submit claim forms directly to the EPFO without attestation of their employers.
- (ii) Online Transfer Claim Portal (OTCP) has been introduced to facilitate seamless transfer of claims.
- (iii) The process of settlement has been simplified and certain manual processes have been done away with.
- (iv) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and Core Banking Solutions have been introduced for provident fund payments. Over 99.50 per cent of all payments, including monthly pension payments, are effected electronically.
- (v) An online grievance redressal system (EPFIGMS) and Facilitation Centers have been opened to address members' grievances at Regional and Sub-Regional Offices. Efforts are made to resolve the grievances within 20 days.

Unemployment due to demonetisation

3127. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons unemployed due to recently announced demonetisation, State-wise and district-wise in case of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Bihar; and

(b) the details of specific measures Government has taken after 8th November, 2016 to check increasing unemployment due to demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted

by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per survey results, the estimated worker population ratio was 39.2% and 38.6% during 2009-10 and 2011-12 respectively and unemployment rate during these period was 2.0% and 2.2%.

In addition, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment also conducts employment and unemployment surveys. As per the result of these surveys the estimated Worker Population Ratio for persons aged 15 years and above on usual status basis was 53.7% during 2013-14 and 50.7% during 2015-16 and unemployment rate was 3.4% and 3.7% during these periods.

To assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India since January, 2009, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, has been conducting Quarterly Quick Employment surveys in the selected labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors namely textiles including apparels, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport, IT/BPO, leather and handloom/power loom. So far twenty eight such surveys have been conducted by Labour Bureau and reports released. According to the survey results, overall estimated employment in all selected sectors has experienced a net addition of 38.81 lakh jobs starting from the first survey (October, 2008 to December, 2008) till the 28th Survey (September, 2015 to December, 2015). During January-December 2015, the net addition in employment in these sectors was 1.57 lakh.

The Government has taken several steps for enhancing financial inclusion and reinforcing minimum wages to workers along with associated social security benefits. It has organised several camps for opening of bank accounts of labourers for payment of wages. The number of camps organised in the last few weeks is around 52,852 and over 14.7 lakh bank accounts of labourers have been opened.

Slowdown in employment growth in Punjab

3128. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment growth in the State of Punjab has shown signs of slowdown;

(b) if so, the details of employment growth in last three years and the current year, sector-wise in the State of Punjab; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) As per the result of surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry