(d) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the threshold limit of workers in an enterprise from 20 to 25 workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) At present, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF and MP) Act, 1952 applies to an establishment engaging 20 or more employees and fulfilling other condition specified in section 1(3) of the Act.

(c) The EPF and MP Act, 1952 intends to provide social security to workers engaged in establishments employing 20 or more employees.

(d) There is no proposal to increase the threshold limit of workers for coverage under the EPF and MP Act, 1952.

Decision to double equity investment of employees

105. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has decided to double the equity investment of employees in 2016-17;

(b) if so, the details of proposal;

(c) what are the details and amount invested in equity with appreciation, equity-wise as on 31 October, 2016; and

(d) whether there is any plan of EPFO to invest in Mutual Funds and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Investment in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has been decided to be increased from the existing level of 5 per cent to 10 per cent within the scope of investment pattern notified by the Government.

(c) The investment has been made by EPFO in ETFs of Nifty 50 and Sensex. Amount invested in Nifty 50 and Sensex based ETFs as on 31.10.2016 is ₹ 9,723 crore. The appreciated value as on 31.10.2016 is ₹ 10,614.16 crore and the absolute return earned is 9.17 per cent.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.