

pay the 3.67% EPF contribution of employers in addition. Government has announced a booster package of ₹ 6000 crores for the textile sector which is an employment intensive sector.

Government has also implemented the National Career Service having a portal ([www.ncs.gov.in](http://www.ncs.gov.in)) for online registration and posting of jobs for job-seekers and provide other employment related services.

#### **Investment of EPFO Funds in ETFs**

2030. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) proposes to raise investment limit in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to have an exit policy for liquidating investments in ETFs, securities and State loans to maximize returns before raising the proportion of equity linked investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The investment limit in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) has been recommended to be raised from 10 per cent to 15 per cent by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in its 218th meeting held on 27.05.2017.

(c) The policy for accounting investments in ETFs was placed before the CBT, EPF in its 218th meeting held on 27.05.2017 and no final recommendation has been made by the CBT.

#### **Increase of unemployment rate**

2031. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment rate has steadily increased from 2014 to 2016;

(b) the month-wise unemployment rate from January 2017 to June 2017 and the corresponding figures from 2014-15 and 2015-16;

(c) the amount disbursed under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the last three years; and

(d) the number of people who have benefited under the scheme in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) As per the result of labour force surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above on usual status basis in the country was 3.4% and 3.7% during 2013-14 and 2015-16 respectively. Month-wise data for 2017 is not available.

(c) and (d) Government of India merged the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) to form the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) as a credit linked subsidy scheme, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing the PMEGP since 2008-09 through Banks. The Margin Money provided to the units and employment generated under PMEGP is given below:

Year	Margin Money provided (in ₹ Crore)	Estimated employment generated (in lakh persons)
2014-15	1122.5	3.58
2015-16	1020.1	4.08
2016-17	1280.9	3.23
2017-18	226.7	0.62
	(as on 09.07.17)	(upto 30.06.2017)

#### **Schemes for welfare of labourers/workers**

2032. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many welfare measures have been adopted for labourers during the last two years;

(b) how many workers got benefited in agriculture, industry and trade thereon;

(c) in what manner the measures adopted during these years affected the workers; and

(d) what has been the increase in labour force in the country since 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) In order to provide social security benefits to the workers in the unorganised sector, the Government has