

(e) total amount disbursed for such purposes by Government during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 mandates the tea estates to provide basic welfare services and amenities *viz.* housing, medical and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc. to the tea workers. Moreover, the workers of the tea industry are covered by all social security legislations like the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Maternity Benefit Act 1961, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Link Insurance Fund Scheme Act, 1955—only for Assam.

Besides, the government implements through the Tea Board various welfare activities for tea plantation workers and their dependants in tea estates. The welfare activities undertaken by the Tea Board under the Human Resource Development (HRD) Scheme aims at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers.

(e) Tea Board has disbursed ₹ 14.33 crores during the last three financial years 2014-15 to 2016-17 and ₹ 2.74 crores during the current financial year 2017-18 (upto 30.11.2017) under the HRD component of "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme".

#### **Returns from EPFO investments in ETFs**

1055. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is expecting good returns from the portion of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) amount it invested in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) based on Nifty 50, Sensex and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) indices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amounts and the companies in which Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has invested; and

(d) the details of returns it expects from these investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The returns on investment in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) based on Nifty 50, Sensex and

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) indices depend on the performance of stock market.

The notional return on the investments in ETFs as on 30th November, 2017 was 18.94 per cent.

(c) and (d) The details of the amounts invested in different ETFs as on 30th November, 2017 are as under:—

ETF	₹ in crore
SBI Nifty 50	19530.02
SBI Sensex	6620.74
UTI Nifty 50	4054.55
UTI Sensex	1377.03
CPSE	1807.81
Bharat 22	2024.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35414.90</b>

The returns from these investments depend on the performance of stock market.

#### **Amendment in EPF scheme for buying homes**

1056. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will amend the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme to enable around 4 crore members of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to withdraw upto 90 per cent of their fund for making down payments while buying houses;

(b) whether said amendment will also allow the EPFO subscribers to use their EPF accounts for paying equated monthly installments of home loans; and

(c) whether under the proposed provision in the EPF scheme, the subscribers would have to form a cooperative society with at least 10 members to avail of the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government *vide* Notification No. G.S.R.351 (E) dated 12th April, 2017 has inserted a paragraph 68BD in Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 1952 for withdrawal from the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for purchasing dwelling house or flat or construction of a dwelling house.