

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of time-frame and plan of Government to ensure regularisation of grants to theatre and dance groups therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sufficient funds are available to meet the annual grants of different theatre and dance groups across the country. The Government administers two schemes viz. 'Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture' and 'Scheme of Financial Assistance for Creation of Cultural Infrastructure' under the umbrella Scheme of 'Kala Sanskriti Vikas Yojana' under which financial assistance are given to various groups including theatre and dance group for promotion of art and culture. The details of grant provided to various groups including theatre and dance groups duly recommended by the Expert/Steering Committee constituted for this purpose during the last three years and current financial year is as under:—

Sl. No.	Financial year	Total No. of groups supported financial assistance	Total amount
(i)	2014-15	1473	₹ 6172.95 Lakhs
(ii)	2015-16	2186	₹ 8690.09 Lakhs
(iii)	2016-17	2215	₹ 7863.41 Lakhs
(iv)	2017-18	1341	₹ 7003.27 Lakhs

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Increasing Investment from EPF in Equity Market

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

(a) whether Government has increased the quantum of amount from Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for being invested in equity market since 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with year-wise cap;

(c) whether Government is expecting different Rate of Return (RoR) for the amount invested in different years with the increasing of cap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has increased the quantum of amount to be invested in Exchange Traded Funds (equities) since 2015 as per the 'Pattern of Investment' notified by the Government. The details of year-wise allocation to Exchange Traded Funds of the total investible surplus of EPFO are as under:

Year	Allocation (in per cent.)
2015-16	05
2016-17	10
2017-18	15

Exchange Traded Fund (equity) is a market linked instrument and the rate of return (RoR) for such investment depends on the performance of the equity market.

Purchase of advanced weapons for paramilitary forces

*395. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any plans to purchase and procure advanced pistols, rifles and other small arms with state-of-the-art technology for BSF, CRPF, CISF, STF and other police forces in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase funds for the purchase of advanced pistols, rifles and other small arms with state-of-the-art technology;

(d) whether Government has allocated any funds for BSF, CRPF, CISF, STF during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (e) The requirements of BSF, CRPF, CISF and other Police Forces keep evolving over time. It is the endeavor of the Government to equip the Forces with the latest and state-of-the-art weapons. This is done under the General budget head as well as under a separate scheme namely Modernization Plan.

The fund allocation and its utilization status under Modernization Plan-II as well as under General budget heads by BSF, CRPF and CISF for acquiring latest arms and ammunition in the last three years are given in Statement.