

(b) whether the retired labourer pensioners of EPFO are getting only ₹ 1000/- per month pension at present;

(c) whether it is impossible for any family to survive on ₹ 1000/- monthly pension;

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to increase the pension of the retired labourer pensioners of EPFO upto an amount needed for the survival of their family;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total number of pensioners of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) as on 31.03.2017 were 56,49,797, which include, member pensioners, spouse pensioners, children pensioners, nominee pensioners, parent pensioners and orphan pensioners.

(b) The pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is calculated as per the provisions of EPS, 1995 which may be more or less than ₹ 1000/- per month depending upon the pensionable salary and pensionable service of the member pensioner.

(c) No such information is available in the Ministry.

(d) to (f) The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 is a self-funded Scheme with contribution from employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages (up to Rupees Fifteen Thousand). Further, Government contributes 1.16 per cent of wages in EPS, 1995 upto a salary limit of ₹ 15,000/- per month. All benefits under the Scheme are paid out of such accumulations.

Further, the Government has fixed minimum pension to ₹ 1000/- per month under EPS, 1995 with effect from 01.09.2014 by providing budgetary support keeping in view the widespread demand. No decision regarding increasing the minimum pension of ₹ 1000/- to EPS, 1995 pensioners has been taken.

Payment of enhanced wages

3776. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had increased minimum wages for workers engaged in sweeping and cleaning activities by 40 per cent w.e.f. 19th January, 2017;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the notification by the contractors engaged by Central Government offices and agencies particularly the Indian Railways; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for proper implementation of the notification and to ensure payment of wages at enhanced rates to workers engaged in sweeping and cleaning activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had increased the basic rate of minimum wages for sweeping and cleaning activities in the central sphere through the notification w.e.f. 19.01.2017. Minimum Wage (per day) for sweeping and cleaning worker were increased by more than 40 percent from ₹ 250/- to ₹ 350/- in the 'C' Area category; ₹ 312/- to ₹ 437/- in 'B' Area category and ₹ 374/- to ₹ 523/- in 'A' Area category.

(b) This Ministry is in constant endeavor towards implementing the revised rates of minimum wages. As far as employees in Railway are concerned guidelines were issued to Ministry of Railways/Railway Board. Ministry of Railways has also issued instructions to its Zonal Offices across the country for strict compliance of minimum wages. The data regarding implementation of Minimum Wages Act for the last one year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is implemented by the Centre as well as the States in respect of their respective jurisdiction. In the Central Sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), the compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions against the defaulting employers are invoked.

Statement

Data regarding implementation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for the last one year

Sl.No.	Particulars	2017-18 (upto Dec., 2017)
1.	No. of Inspections Conducted	7380
2.	No. of Irregularities Detected	62304
3.	No. of Irregularities Rectified	28884
4.	No. of Prosecutions Launched	1130
5.	No. of Convictions	1721