

Shortage of staff in EPFO

1869. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that EPFO has around 250 offices across the country wherein most of officers are facing acute shortage of staff which is causing undue hardships to the subscribers in getting timely disposal of their claims and grievances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present employees are overloaded with work assignments leading to impossible work output targets beyond their capacities;

(c) if so, whether Government has any plan to appoint more staff in EPFO for its smooth functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has 138 Regional Offices and 117 District Offices. Computerisation, simplification of processes, online submission of claims, automated generation of accounts slips, etc. have been introduced in the EPFO for expeditious disposal of work.

(c) and (d) Appointment of officers and staff in EPFO is an ongoing process and action is taken to fill up the vacancies as per recruitment rules.

Social audit of factories

1870. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to conduct social audit of all factories to check that workers are getting conducive working conditions, continuing with its strategy of extracting benefits for employees as part of strategy to build support for labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most workers are often deprived of protection measures and are exposed to hazardous air and water and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the social audit is likely to remove these problems being faced by the workers; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The State Government in their respective jurisdictions implement safety, health, welfare measures provided under the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules made thereunder. Inspections are made by the State Government to enforce the said act so that safety, health and welfare measures are provided to workers by the employers.

National Pension Scheme

†1871. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a National Pension Scheme for the retail merchants, shopkeepers and for self-employed people of the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the current beneficiaries of National Pension Scheme have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details of the beneficiaries of said National Pension Scheme in various States including Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders) has been launched on 12.09.2019 to provide old age protection to approx. 3.0 crore traders, shopkeepers and self-employed persons in the age group of 18-40 years. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. Enrolment to the Scheme is done through the Common Service Centres, with its network of 3.50 lakh Centres across the country. In addition eligible persons can also self-enroll through visiting the portal www.maandhan.in. The traders in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turn over, not exceeding ₹1.5 crore and who are not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS/PM-SYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan) or an income tax payer, can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50% monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government. Subscribers, after

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.