

recommendations relating to fixation and revision of rates of wages in respect of working journalists and non-journalist newspaper/news agency employees.

The primary responsibility for implementation of recommendations lies with the State Governments/UTs. The State Governments send the Quarterly Progress Report to the Ministry and also gear up the State Labour Enforcement Machinery to ensure speedy and prompt implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards. The Ministry has a Central Level Monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation of Wage Board Recommendations by the States.

"The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955", has been subsumed into "Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019" which was introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.07.2019. The definition of the "Working Journalist" in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019 takes in its fold, not only those journalists who are working in newspaper establishments, but also those in the electronic media.

Committee appointed for study the issues of EPF pensioners

1554. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated action for implementation of the recommendations of the committee appointed for study of the issues of EPF pensioners and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to increase the minimum pension for EPF pensioners and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also proposes to stop the realisation of amount from the pension on account of commutation of pension after realising the commuted amount and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per recommendations made by High Empowered Monitoring Committee constituted by the Government for complete evaluation and review of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, the Government vide Notification G.S.R. No. 132(E) dated 20.02.2020 has implemented a recommendation regarding restoration to normal pension after completion of fifteen years from the date

of such commutation, in respect of those members who availed the benefit of commutation of pension under the erstwhile paragraph 12A of this Scheme, on or before the 25th day of September, 2008. However, no decision has been taken to increase the minimum pension under EPS, 1995 from ₹1,000/- to ₹2,000/- per month, as recommended by the High Empowered Monitoring Committee.

Closure of automobile factories in Tamil Nadu

1555. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automobile factories closed or laid off their workers in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how many mandays are lost because of this action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) As per Labour and Employment Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the information is 'Nil'.

(b) Does not arise.

Cash subsidy transfer to bank accounts of beneficiaries

†1556. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evaluated projects to transfer cash subsidy on Kerosene and LPG directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In order to initiate reforms in Allocation and Distribution of PDS Kerosene distribution system, to stop pilferage of subsidy and to reduce the outflow of Central subsidy on kerosene to States/Union Territories (UTs) to a realistic level DBTK Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01.04.2016.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.