

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), first in China and now having being confirmed in more than 100 countries, has emerged as a key risk to human health as well as global growth outlook through numerous channels like trade, production and supply chain disruptions; decline in demand; lower tourism and business travel; and productivity losses from the health impact on work force. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been coordinating the efforts of the Central Government in terms of preparedness, control and containment measures and has also been working with State Governments in order to mitigate the impact of the virus outbreak in India.

(b) No such data is available.

Implementation of PMRPY

2824. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are irregularities found in implementation of job formalisation scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protashan Yojana (PMRPY);

(b) if so, the details thereof since its implementation and the reasons and action taken thereon; and

(c) whether provident fund is also misused in this, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon with corrective steps being taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government of India had launched Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) with effect from 09.08.2016 with an aim at incentivizing the employers to recruit new employees and also to formalize employment. The scheme was for "new employees" for the first three years of their employment from the date of acquiring new Universal Account Number (UAN) on or after 01.04.2016, provided they continue in employment in any EPFO registered Establishment.

Based on the recommendations of the Concurrent Audit done internally by EPFO, a process of de-duplication was carried out with respect to beneficiaries under PMRPY

and it was found that 70,342 establishments had availed benefit under PMRPY for a total of 7,62,013 ineligible member beneficiaries, amounting to a total of ` 285.27 crores approximately and an amount of ` 307.60 crores (including interest and damages) has been recovered from such employers till 23.01.2020.

(c) The recovery from establishments does not affect the PF benefits of the employees as their PF benefits have been deposited by the employers with EPFO. Only the subsidy which the employers have availed has been recovered from such employers due to ineligibility.

Bonded labour in the SC/ST community

2825. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage from SC/ST community amongst the bonded labourers rescued in the last three financial years; and

(b) whether there is any special measures being taken by the Central Government to address caste-based vulnerabilities leading to trafficking of schedule caste and scheduled tribe labour and their consequent bondage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, identification, release and rehabilitation of freed bonded labour is the direct responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory. For these functions, District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties/responsibilities. The Central Government does not maintain any such data in this regard.

(b) 'Police' is State subject under the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such prevention of the crime of human trafficking in bonded labour cases is the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by taking various initiatives and measures. The Government has provided financial assistance to all States for setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units and 332 Anti Human Trafficking Units have been