

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3621
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.07.2019**

WORKFORCE COVERED UNDER EPFO

**3621. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: DR. HEENA GAVIT:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and percentage of employees out of total workforce of the country who are covered under Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);**
- (b) the details of the policy/guidelines being followed for opening new offices of the EPFO in the country;**
- (c) whether EPFO has made changes in the rules in respect of withdrawal for the subscribers who are unemployed, if so, the details thereof along with the benefits that the unemployed subscriber gets out of these changed rules; and**
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the pending claims under EPF along with achievements thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

- (a): As per section 1(3) of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Act is applicable:**
- i. to every establishment, which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule-I to the Act in which twenty or more persons are employed; and**
 - ii. to any other establishment employing twenty or more persons or class of such establishments which the Central Government notifies in the Official Gazette.**

Also as per under Section 1(4) of the Act with consent of the employer and the majority of employees the Act may be applied on the establishment voluntarily.

Contd..2/-

There are 4.34 crore contributory members under Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the month of May, 2019.

(b): The existing policy for opening of offices in place is based on the norms prescribed by National Productivity Council which was approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) in the year 1999. The norms for deciding the opening of offices are further based on statistical data of workload, in terms of establishments and subscribers, enforcement parameters i.e. coverage of establishments, defaulters and prosecution cases pending and lastly service parameters i.e., the workload of claims and claims settlements.

(c): Paragraph 68HH has been inserted in the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 to enable a member, who is no longer in employment for a continuous period of not less than one month, to avail upto 75% of amount standing to his credit in the provident fund.

(d): The following steps have been taken for speedy settlement of claims:-

(i) EPFO has allotted a Universal Account Numbers (UAN) for consolidation/portability of accounts;

(ii) A single page Composite Claim Form for both Aadhaar & Non-Aadhaar has been introduced by replacing the erstwhile multiple Claim Forms No. 19, 10C and 31;

(iii) The process of settlement has been simplified and certain manual processes have been done away with.

(iv) The entire payments to subscribers are made electronically through National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT). Similarly, the entire payments by employers are done electronically through Internet Banking (INB);

(v) The services of EPFO for employees have also been integrated and offered through the Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) Application, a Government of India initiative. The application enables a member to access his passbook, track the status of the claim, submission of online claim form and digital life certificate by pensioners; and

(vi) An option for submission of claim forms through online mode has been introduced.