

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.07.2019**

OPENING OF NEW OFFICE OF EPFO

3625. SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

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

- (a) the details of policy/guidelines being followed for opening new offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the country, State/ UT-wise including Tamil Nadu;**
- (b) the number and details of such new offices opened by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;**
- (c) whether EPFO had 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 achievement thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): 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.

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(b): No new office has been opened in Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the last three years. However, the CBT in 215th meeting held on 19th December, 2016 has approved the recommendations of the Sub Committee of the CBT on Organizational and Cadre Restructuring which has been implemented with the approval of the Central Government in December, 2016. As a part of the organizational restructuring, the 81 Sub-Regional Offices have been upgraded to Regional Offices to provide services to the EPF subscribers and other stakeholders under its jurisdiction. Further, 117 Inspectorates have been upgraded to District Offices.

(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.