GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1692 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

INCREASE AMOUNT UNDER PROVIDENT FUND FOR WOMEN

†1692. SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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

- (a)whether the Government has any Provident Fund Scheme specially for women; and
- (b)whether the Government has any proposal to increase the amount of provident fund by 50% for women with an aim to boost employment opportunities for them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) & (b): The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952 is one of the three schemes framed under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952. The EPF Scheme, 1952 aims at providing social security to employees, irrespective of gender, employed in an EPF covered establishment. Under the EPF Scheme, 1952, an employee of any covered establishment drawing monthly wages up to Rs. 15,000 is statutorily required to join the fund and to contribute 12% of wages, which includes basic wages, dearness allowance and retaining allowance, if any. The employer is also required to contribute 12% of the wages.

The Government has enacted the Code on Social Security, 2020 which subsumes 9 labour laws including the EPF & MP Act, 1952. As per provisions of the Code, the Central Government, after making such inquiry as it deems fit, may, by notification, specify rates of employees' contributions and the period for which such rates shall apply for any class of employee. The said provisions of the Code have not yet come into force.
