

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 199  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

**INDO-ASIAN NEWS CHANNEL PRIVATE LIMITED**

**199. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that M/s Indo-Asian News Channel Private Limited (CIN: U92130KL201OPTC026426, Reg. No. 26426) owes outstanding dues to its employees in the form of salary, provident funds, etc. and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry against the company under various provisions of the Employee Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;**
- (d) whether any actions have been taken against the company and the Managing Director to recover the arrear payments and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government is aware of the change in the company's share holding pattern and board of directors; and**
- (f) if so, whether the Government permitted the change in the board of directors before clearing the pending dues under the EPF & MP Act?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): The enquiries under Section 7A, 14B and 7Q of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 have been conducted from time to time by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the details are as under: -**

**Contd..2/-**

Sl. No	Inquiry	Period	Amount	Status
1	7A	02/2011 to 07/2012	Rs. 27,48,441/-	Fully remitted
2	7A	08/2012 to 06/2013	Rs. 29,36,988/-	RRC issued
3	7A	07/2013 to 03/2014	Rs. 13,58,461/-	RRC issued
4	7A	04/2014 to 08/2014	Rs. 9,10,051/-	RRC issued
5	7A	09/2014 to 03/2015	Rs. 12,37,463/-	RRC issued
6	7A	04/2015 to 01/2018	Rs. 96,80,851/-	RRC issued
7	7A	02/2018 to 10/2019	Rs. 23,18,456/-	RRC issued
<b>RRC: Revenue Recovery Certificate</b>				

Sl. No	Inquiry	Period	14B (in Rs)	7Q (in Rs)	Total (in Rs)	Remark
1	14B	02/2011 to 02/2013	10,41,403/-	5,07,161/-	15,48,564/-	RRC issued
2	14B	02/2013 to 07/2013	10,53,156/-	5,05,515/-	15,58,671/-	RRC issued
3	14B	08/2012 to 01/2018	34,70,541/-	16,73,185/-	51,43,726/-	RRC issued

**For compliance from 11/2019, Show Cause notice was issued by EPFO but no reply has been received from the employer. Prosecution notice was also issued by EPFO to the employer on 16.08.2023, which has been acknowledged but no reply has been received. Damages under Section 14B and Interest under Section 7Q of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 to be assessed based on recovery and remittance of outstanding 7A amount.**

**An amount of Rs.1,36,45,154/- towards Provident Fund dues assessed u/s 7A, Penal Damages u/s 14B and Interest u/s 7Q of EPF & MP Act, 1952 is recoverable as arrear demand from the establishment.**

**Contd..3/-**

**(d): Recovery actions to recover the arrear demand as provided in section 8(B) to 8(G) of EPF & MP Act, 1952 has already been initiated against the establishment and the employer to recover the outstanding amount which includes issue of Certificate Proceeding (CP)-1 Demand Notice to the defaulter, CP-3 Prohibitory Order to the Bank and CP-25 Notice to show cause why a warrant of arrest should not be issued to the Managing Director, Shri N. V. Nikesh Kumar.**

**Further, the establishment has filed Writ Petition No.28653/2023 against the Demand Notice in CP-I issued on 01.08.2023 for recovery of Penal Damages (14B) and Interest (7Q) levied for the period from 08/2012 to 01/2018 amounting to Rs. 50,39,141/- and Hon'ble High Court of Kerala vide judgment dated 08.09.2023 has granted 15 instalments to clear the arrear damages and 7Q interest commencing from 25.10.2023 and employer has partly complied with the court's direction.**

**(e) & (f): The company has applied in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for grant of permission for appointment of two directors on its board and change in the shareholding pattern of the company. As on date, the Government has not permitted the change.**

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