

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1055
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021**

SOCIAL SECURITY RELIEF MEASURES FOR DEPENDENTS

**1055. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:
SHRIMATI GODDETI MADHAVI:
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:
SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:
SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have revised their schemes to provide social security relief measures for the dependents of workers who died due to COVID-19;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of people who have benefitted through the revision of schemes;**
- (c) whether EPFO has now allowed its members to avail a second non-refundable advance to meet their financial needs during COVID-19; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): In order to provide help and succour to the families of the Insured Persons (IPs) who died due to COVID-19, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has on 03.06.2021 launched ESIC

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COVID-19 Relief Scheme. Under this scheme 90% of average wages of deceased Insured Person shall be paid to the eligible dependents of the Insured Person who died due to COVID-19. The Scheme is effective for a period of two years w.e.f. 24.03.2020. The eligibility conditions for relief under the scheme are:-

- i. The IP who died due to COVID-19 disease must have been registered on the ESIC online portal at least three months prior to the date of diagnosis of COVID-19 disease resulting in his/ her death.**
- ii. The deceased IP must have been in employment on the date of diagnosis of COVID-19 disease and contributions for at least 70 days should have been paid or payable in respect of him/ her during a period of maximum one year immediately preceding the diagnosis of COVID-19 disease resulting in death.**
- iii. The spouse of the deceased IP/IW shall also be eligible for Medical care on depositing Rs 120/- every year.**

2. Till 09.07.2021, total 1225 claims have been received out of which 307 have been sanctioned.

3. Further, the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 envisages benefits, namely (i) maintaining of Employees' Provident Fund accumulations, (ii) Employees' Pension and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI). In order to provide relief to the dependents of workers who died during the period, the scheme of EDLI was amended providing for minimum assurance benefit of ₹2.5 lakh to eligible family members of deceased employees. In addition, the maximum insurance amount under EDLI Scheme, 1976 has been enhanced from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 7 lakh. As on 28.06.2021, 201 persons have benefited through amendment in EDLI Scheme and enhanced benefits amounting Rs. 5.57 crore have been paid.

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(c) & (d): Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 1952 was amended in March, 2020 by inserting the provision for allowing non-refundable advance to EPF members during Pandemic /Epidemic. This provision allowed EPF members to avail advance from their EPF account to the extent of 75 per cent of their balance or three-month wages whichever is less. The EPF members who have already availed the first COVID-19 advance can now opt for a second advance. As on 15.07.2021, the number of claims settled under second COVID-19 advance facility is 4,62,816.
