GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2286 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

INVESTMENT OF EPFO IN STOCK MARKETS

2286. SHRI SHANMUGA SUNDARAM K.:

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

- (a)whether the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the state run organization has decided to invest 5 per cent of corpus fund in stock markets after its formation of 64 years with a motive to give stable return to the pensioners.
- (b)if so, the incremental deposit in EPFO during the last three years and the current year;
- (c)the exact amount earmarked for investment in stock market and the method of deployment of funds in the market;
- (d)whether the Government has taken adequate precautions to secure the interests of the pensioners due to volatile stock market where there is no guarantee of return of investment; and
- (e)whether EPFO has received any representation from the All India Trade Unions against this policy and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) can invest up to 15% of investment in equity as per the Pattern of Investment notified by the Central Government and the internal guidelines of EPFO approved by the Central Board of Trustees' (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF). However, EPFO invests only in Exchange Contd..2/- Trading Fund (ETF) and not in individual share/stock through ETF-Manufacturers (SBI-Mutual Fund and UTI-Mutual Fund). A joint representation was received from some of the trade unions on involving of workers in decision making process while investing in equity. Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC) and the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO, which are mandated for investing in equities and other instruments, have representatives of workers. The deposit from contribution in EPFO and investment in equity during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

(In Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Deposit from Contribution	Equity Investment
2018-19	1,87,214	27743
2019-20 (Provisional)	2,19,325	32377
2020-21 (Provisional)	2,18,345	31025
2021- 22 (upto 30.06.2021)	57,846	7715
