

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021**

SAHARA GROUP FROM EPF

3331. SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that due to exemption granted to the Sahara Group from EPF, several employees lost their PF benefits;**
- (b) if so, the circumstances under which such exemption was granted to the Sahara Group together with the exemption proceedings;**
- (c) the amounts collected by the Sahara Group from its employees towards PF before giving such exemption and present status of the account; and**
- (d) details of action taken by the Government to recover PF dues from Sahara after its closure?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Exemption to an Establishment under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (EPF & MP Act) and the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 is accorded in accordance with the provisions of the Act and scheme guidelines. M/s Sahara India and four other companies, namely, M/s Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd., M/s Sahara India Commercial Corporation Ltd., M/s Sahara Airlines Ltd. and M/s Sahara India Mass Communication were granted exemption vide Orders dated 12.06.2006 after ascertaining the various aspects including transfer of contributions by the establishments and its participating units to the

Contd..2/-

Trust and also on the basis of reports of the enforcement authorities of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). No loss of any Provident Fund (PF) benefit was reported at the time of grant of exemption by the enforcement authorities of EPFO. A corpus having Face Value of Rs. 185.32 crore was reported in the trust in respect of the then PF members. After cancellation of exemption, past accumulations of PF amounting to Rs.278.56 crore along with details of all the employees in respect of four establishments were received from the Trust by EPFO. However, M/s Sahara Airlines Ltd. was bought over by M/s Jet Airways Ltd. in April, 2007.

(d): Exemption granted to the Establishment was cancelled during the month of March, 2018 in respect of M/s Sahara India, M/s Sahara India Financial Corporation Limited, M/s Sahara India Commercial Corporation Limited and M/s Sahara India Mass Communication due to violations of terms and conditions of exemption. Further, a demand for an amount of Rs 33, 97, 30,000/- has been raised by EPFO and the matter is now sub-judice.
