

Ministry of Labour & Employment

The Monthly Progress Report on important Issues / Developments for the month of March, 2021 is as under:

1. Labour Law Reforms:

(i) Four Labour Codes: As a part of legislative reforms, the existing 29 Acts in the central sphere have been subsumed in the four Codes. All Codes have been passed by Parliament and notified. The latest status of each of the Code is as under:

- **The Code on Wages, 2019:** The Code on wages (Central) Rules, 2020 has been finalized in consultations with Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **The Code on Occupational Safety Health & Working Conditions:** The Code on Occupational Safety Health & Working Conditions (Central) Rules, 2021 have been finalized in the Ministry and sent to Legislative Department for vetting.
- **The Code on Industrial Relations:** The Code on Industrial Relations (Central) Rules, 2021 has been finalized including vetting by Legislative Department.
- **The Code on Social Security:** The Code on Social Security (Central) Rules, 2021 has been finalized sent to Legislative Department for vetting.

(ii) Status of State Rules under four labour Codes: Following State Governments have pre-published their Rules:-

Name of Code	Name of States which have pre-published the draft Rules
Code on Wages	J&K, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, UP, Gujarat, Odisha, Punjab
Industrial Relations Code	J&K, MP, Bihar, Uttarakhand, UP, Gujarat, Punjab
Code on Social Security	J&K, MP, Bihar, Uttarakhand, UP, Punjab
OSH Code	J&K, Uttarakhand, UP, MP, Bihar

(iii) Governance Reforms: Shram Suvidha Portal

- Under the Shram Suvidha Portal, **32,05,683** Labour Identification Number (LIN) have been generated and inspection report in respect of **5,97,940** cases have been uploaded as on 16.03.2021.

2. Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO):

- i) **Meeting of Central Board of Trustees, EPF-** The 228th meeting of Central Board of Trustees, EPF was held on 04.03.2021 in Srinagar. During the meeting, Chairman, CBT launched e-facility for Principal Employers, which would allow them to view PF compliance and remittance made by their contractors in monthly ECR. Chairman, CBT launched another web facility for registering, processing & monitoring of complaints & optional inspection by EPFO offices through a web-based portal. Chairman, CBT released a booklet titled 'Response to Covid', which encapsulated the preparedness of EPFO to innovate and deliver uninterrupted services to its stakeholders through the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman CBT also released booklet on operations of EPFO in J&K and Ladakh, capturing the efforts made by EPFO in extending social security schemes in these UTs. The Central Board recommended 8.50% annual rate of interest to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for the financial year 2020-21. The Board approved creation of 98 posts in different cadres required for seamless functioning of Regional Offices of J&K and paving the way for smooth absorption of all staff & officers of J&K EPFO into CBT, EPF.
- ii) **Meetings of the Executive Committee, CBT, EPF, and other Committees of the CBT, EPF-** As a run up to the CBT, the 99th meeting of EC, CBT, EPF and 162nd meeting of the Finance, Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC) were held on 03.03.2021. Also, the 46th meeting of Exempted Establishments' Committee and 45th meeting of Pension & EDLI Implementation Committee (PEIC) were held on 26.02.2021. Many important issues were deliberated upon in these committee meetings, some of which were placed before the CBT in its meeting held on 04.03.2021.
- iii) **Webinars by PDNASS-** PDNASS conducted a webinar titled "Simplifying EPFO processes" for the employers of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on 25.03.2021. A total of 245 employers from the region participated in the 1hr 45min long webinar. Another webinar on Preventive Vigilance in EPFO was conducted by PDNASS on 24 & 25.03.2021. A total of 369 Officers including all Zonal Heads and RPFCS in charge of Regional Offices participated in the webinar.
- iv) **Settlement of claims by EPFO offices-** Since 01.04.20, 276.81 lakh claims (Final PF Settlements, Death Claims, Insurance Claims and Partial withdrawal/advance including LIP & Covid-19) have been settled by EPFO offices till 31.03.2021 disbursing an amount of Rs. 1,01,971 crores to PF members. Exempted establishments have also played an important role and have settled 4,53,752 COVID-19 advance claims disbursing an amount of Rs. 4255.96 crores to their members till 31.03.2021.
- v) **Pension disbursement during COVID-19 pandemic-** In the month of March, 2021, EPFO released Rs 1034.75 crores as monthly pension to EPS pensioners. 50,308 new pensioners were also added in the month of March, 2021. In March 2021, field offices of EPFO conducted 195 webinars on Prayaas initiative, which were attended by 760 EPS members and 1056 employer representatives.

- vi) **KYC updation of subscribers-** Since 01.04.2020, EPFO offices have ensured Aadhaar seeding for 168.24 lakh subscribers, mobile seeding for 107.86 lakh subscribers and bank account seeding for 100.44 lakh subscribers till 31.03.2021.
- vii) **Encouraging trends from payroll data-** The provisional payroll data of EPFO published on 20 March, 2021 highlights a growing trend of subscriber base with the addition of 13.36 lakh net subscribers during the month of January, 2021. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, EPFO added around 62.49 lakh subscribers upto January during the financial year 2020-21.

3. **Actions/key initiatives taken by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC):**

- i. Gazette Notification regarding extension of ESI Scheme in respect of entire area of Khowai, South Tripura and Unakoti District in the State of Tripura w.e.f. 1st April, 2021 has been issued by the Central Government. This will pave the way for coverage of substantial numbers of IPs pertaining to South Tripura, which were hitherto remained deprived of the benefits of the scheme.
- ii. Considering the hardship faced by the IPs/Beneficiaries of the ESI Scheme during the nationwide lockdown w.e.f. March, 2020 a decision for one time relaxation in their contributory conditions entitling them to receive medical benefits including SST has been taken.
- iii. The post of a Chief Information Technology Officer on permanent basis in the level 14 of 7th Pay Commission has been created with the approval of the Central Government in ESIC.

4. **Consumer Price Index:** All India Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) with base year 2016=100 for the month of February 2021 decreased by 0.8 points and stood at 119.0 (One hundred Nineteen and point Zero). The inflation based on CPI-IW stood at 4.48 per cent for February, 2021 as compared to 3.15 per cent for the previous month and 6.84 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year.

5. **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY)-** A new Scheme ABRY was launched to incentivise creation of new employment opportunities during the COVID recovery phase on 09.12.2020. As on 05.04.2021, 2.04 lakh establishments have registered 20.23 lakh new employees under ABRY. Till 05.04.2021, 56,552 establishments have claimed benefits amounting to Rs. 353.85 crores in respect of 13.01 lakh beneficiaries.

6. The Fieldwork of two surveys on (i) All-India Quarterly Established based Employment Survey (AQEES) and (ii) All-India Survey on Migrant Workers have been launched by Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Employment on 1st April, 2021.

7. This Ministry's vide letter No. Z-20011/08/2021-BOCW dated 22.03.2021 issued an Order under Section 60 of BOCW Act, 1996 regarding use of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for cash assistance and restriction on distribution of benefits

in-kind to the registered BOCW workers by the State Building and Other Construction Workers' welfare Board.

8. Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (L&E), who is also the Chairman of Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO), chaired the sittings of the 341st Session of the Governing Body (GB) virtually in New Delhi from 15 – 17 March, 2021. Secretary (L&E) visited Geneva, Switzerland from 19 – 27 March, 2021 (excluding transit period) to chair the remaining period of the session of GB.

9. Important matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations:

Nil.

10. Number of cases of „sanction for prosecution“ pending for more than 3 months:

Nil.

11. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government:

Nil.

12. Status of Public Grievances:

Number of Public Grievances redressed during the month	Number of Public Grievances disposed in the month
7032	8132