

Ministry of Labour & Employment

1. Important policy decisions taken and major achievements during the month of March 2023.

A. 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 the Parliament and notified. The latest status of each of the Code is as under:

- The Code on Wages, 2019 was notified in Gazette of India on 8th August, 2019 and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 were notified in Gazette of India on 29th September, 2020.
- The Central Government has pre-published the draft Rules, namely, the Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2020, the Industrial Relation (Central) Rules, 2020, the Code on Social Security (Central) Rules, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Central) Rules, 2020.

(i) **Status of Rules by State/UTs under four Labour codes:** Following State/UT Governments have pre-published their Rules:-

Name of Code	Name of State/UTs which have pre-published the draft Rules
The Code on Wages, 2019	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, NCT of Delhi and Puducherry (31)
The Industrial Relations Code, 2020	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Puducherry (28)
The Code on Social Security, 2020	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Puducherry (28)
The Occupational Safety Health and working Conditions Code, 2020	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, UTs of Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Puducherry (26)

(ii) **Governance Reforms:** Shram Suvidha Portal: Under the Shram Suvidha Portal 40,03,161 Labour Identification Number (LIN) have been generated and inspection report in respect of 7,65,225 cases have been uploaded on the portal.

B. eShram Portal: eSHRAM portal has been developed for creating a National Database of Unorganized Workers, which is seeded with Aadhaar to extend the benefits of the social security schemes to them. Any worker, who is working in unorganised sector and aged between 16-59, is eligible to register on the eSHRAM portal. It is the first-ever national database of unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers, etc. As on 04.04.2023 a total of 28.84 crore unorganised workers have registered on the portal.

C. Consumer Price Index: All India Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) with base year 2016=100 for the month of February, 2023 decreased by 0.1 points and stood at 132.7 (One Hundred Thirty Two and point seven). The inflation based on CPI-IW stood at 6.16 per cent for February, 2023 as compared to 6.16 per cent for the previous month and 5.04 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year.

D. Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO):

a) Meeting of Executive Committee, CBT, EPF

The 105th meeting of Executive Committee, CBT was held on March 10, 2023 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment. In the meeting, the Committee took following key decisions:

- Approved proposal for allotment/lease of land from HSIIDC for Regional Office-GGN (W), Plot No. 21, Sector-02, IMT, Manesar, Gurugram.
- Approved proposal for allotment/lease of land for construction of office building for Regional Office-Darjeeling
- Approved Claim Settlement facility at Special State Offices (SSO) of EPFO to ensure better services in remote locations of North East Region. There are 05 SSOs in remote and difficult areas of the North East Region in each of the States of Manipur(Imphal), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar), Nagaland (Dimapur), Mizoram (Aizwal) and Sikkim (Gangtok).
- Approved constitution of Committee for recommending amendments in the Employees' Provident Fund (Officers and Employees Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2008.
- Approved creation of one supernumerary post of Addl. CPFC Gr. II/Addl. CPFC for a fixed period for the purpose of accommodating one officer

b) 233rd meeting of the Central Board of Trustees, EPF

The 233rd meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (the CBT), EPF was held on March 27th and 28th ,2023 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of **Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour & Employment**, Vice-Chairpersonship of **Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment** and Co-Vice-Chairmanship of Secretary for Labour & Employment. During the meeting, following important decisions were taken:

- The CBT recommended 8.15 % annual rate of interest to be credited on EPF accumulations in members' accounts for the financial year 2022-23. The interest rate would be officially notified after approval of Ministry of Finance, following which EPFO would credit the interest into accounts, of its subscribers.

- The CBT approved the revised estimates for the year 2022-23 and Budget Estimates for the year 2023-24 for schemes administered by EPFO.
- The CBT was apprised on the actions taken towards compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment regarding Pension on higher wages and measures taken to facilitate filing of options etc.
- The CBT approved the proposal for conversion of status of EPFO from Associate Member to Affiliate Member in International Social Security Association (ISSA). This would enable EPFO to play a bigger role in the international social security platform of ISSA.
- The CBT approved the umbrella MoU signed between EPFO and NTA for conduct of various examinations. The first action has been initiated as per the MoU by notification of Direct Recruitment Examination in the cadres of Social Security Assistant and Stenographer.
- The CBT approved the proposal for extension of AMC of Portfolio Managers.
- In a public function held on 28.3.2023, **Hon'ble Minister for Labour & Employment** launched an improved version of e-Passbook for the benefit and convenience of the EPFO members enabling them to view more details of their accounts, virtually inaugurated crèche facility in 63 Regional Offices of EPFO where 100 or more employees are working, virtually laid foundation stone of the office building of Regional Office Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and virtually inaugurated office building of Regional Office, Keonjhar, Odisha.

c) Nidhi Aapke Nikat Programme

Under the Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0, EPFO reaches out to all its stakeholders, thereby increasing accessibility and visibility of the organization in all the districts of the country. As scheduled, monthly 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' programme was conducted on 27.03.2023. Camps were held in 704 districts. 28,468 participants attended. Total 12,965 grievances were received and 9,968 were resolved.

Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 is not only a grievance redressal platform and information exchange network for the employers and the employees but also a platform for exchange of information with the district level authorities of various State and Central Government departments.

d) E-Nominations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)

As a part of celebration of AKAM, EPFO has started a special drive to encourage members to file e-nomination. Total 1.85 crore e-nominations were filed till 31.03.2023 and in March 2023, 5.30 Lakh e-nominations have been done.

e) Settlement of claims by EPFO offices

Since 01.04.2022, 412.86 lakh claims (Final PF Settlements, Death Claims, Insurance Claims and Partial withdrawal/advance including LIP & Covid-19) have been settled by EPFO offices till 31.03.2023, disbursing an amount of ₹ 1,59,033.45 Crores to PF members.

f) Progress on EDLI Scheme

The assurance benefit has been raised from earlier ₹6 Lakhs to ₹7 Lakhs from 28.04.2021. Since 15.02.2020, an amount of ₹ 5221.19 crore has been disbursed to 1,85,417 beneficiaries across 66,682 establishments as assurance benefit till 31.03.2023.

g) KYC updation of subscribers

Since 01.04.2022, EPFO offices have ensured Aadhaar seeding for 1.34 crore subscribers, mobile number seeding for 1.08 crore subscribers and bank account seeding for 46.02 lakh subscribers till 31.03.2023.

h) EPFO Payroll data

The provisional payroll data of EPFO released on 20th March 2023 highlights that EPFO has added 14.86 lakh net subscribers during the month of January, 2023.

i) Pension disbursement

Under the 'Prayaas' initiative, field offices of EPFO are handing over PPOs to members of EPS 1995 on the day of superannuation. Field offices of EPFO conducted 5,736 webinars on Prayaas initiative till 31.03.2023. 851 PPOs were handed over to subscribers under Prayaas initiative in the month of March, 2023.

E. Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC):

a) Performance in Key Areas:

• **UAN Seeding of Insured Persons:**

Universal Account Number (UAN) provides portability of benefit and enables introduction of technology. EPFO's database has already been seeded with UAN. Seeding of ESIC database is now being undertaken first time. 15882177 accounts have been assigned UAN till January, 2023. Availability of common number between the accounts of ESIC and EPFO will help in comparing beneficiaries between the two organisations.

b) Extension of ESIC Scheme:

- ESI Scheme has been extended in the entire area of two Partially notified districts i.e. Gandhinagar and Valsad in the State of Gujarat. The notifications dated 13.03.2023 and 29.03.2023 respectively to this effect have been issued by the Central Government for notifying the districts effective from 1st of April, 2023
- ESI Scheme has been extended in the entire area of two Partially notified districts East Khasi Hills and Ribhoi in the State of Meghalaya. A notification dated 25.03.2023 to this effect has been issued by the Central Government for notifying the districts effective from 1st of April, 2023.
- ESI Scheme has been extended in the entire area of four Partially notified districts Kanchipuram, Tirupattur, Tiruvannamalai and Villuppuram and; one Non- notified district i.e. Kallakurichi in the State of Tamil Nadu. A notification dated 25.03.2023 to this effect has been issued by the Central Government for notifying the districts effective from 1st of April, 2023.
- Total no. of fully notified districts have now risen to 492 out of 610 notified districts in the country.

c) **Property Management Division**

- In Principle approval of setting up of one 30 bedded (extendable to 100 beds) ESI Hospital at Una, Himachal Pradesh).
- CPWD vide letter dated 21.03.2023 has been intimated to go ahead with the tendering activity in respect of Construction of 500 Bedded ESIC Hospitals Manesar, Haryana.
- Concept plan approved for the following hospitals.
 - Harohalli, Karnataka (100 beds).
 - Narsapur, Karnataka (100 beds).
 - Meerut, U.P (100 beds).
 - Hubli, Karnataka (50 beds).

d) **Medical Services**

- First Aid training given to 2343 IPs.
- Screening for Occupational disease of 3087 IPs.
- Basic Life Support (BLS) education given to 5309 IPs.
- Public Health Education lectures, CMEs, Seminars & Health Exhibition in various ESIC Hospitals.
- Home drug delivery.
- 5G ambulance service.
- During the month of March, 2023 Annual Preventive Health Checkup conducted at various Industrial Clusters for a total of 22449 IPs/employees.
- An instruction has been issued to all Deans/Medical Superintendent ESIC Medical and Dental Colleges/Hospitals reiterating to ensure availability of faculty/specialists/medical officer (PG) in ESIC hospitals during emergency hours.

F. Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY): To boost employment generation and to minimize socio-economic compact of Covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Labour & Employment on 30.12.2020 notified EPFO-linked Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) scheme. As on 01.04.2023, 1,52,117 establishments have claimed benefits amounting to ₹ **8992.23** Crores in respect of **60.34** Lakh beneficiaries.

G. Meetings :

- Labour 20 (L20) Inception meeting under G20 Presidency of India was held from 19-03-2023 to 20-03-2023 at Amritsar, Punjab.
- An Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment attended the 347th Session of Governing Body of ILO held from 13-03-2023 to 23-03-2023 at Geneva, Switzerland.
- Dr. Mahendra Kumar, Director, Ministry of Labour & Employment attended the Indo Pacific Economic Forum negotiations from 13-03-2023 to 15-03-2023 at Bali, Indonesia.

H. National Career Service (NCS):

a) Key activities/achievements of NCS :

- 502 job fairs were organized in which a total of 2,180 employers participated and 28,483 candidates were selected for jobs during the month. In respect of stakeholder registration, 63,616 new employers, 7,49,748 new jobseekers, 6,747 UAN based jobseekers were registered on NCS portal. Around 2,46,132 vacancies mobilized on the NCS portal for the period of 01st March 2023 to 31st March 2023.

(b) Skilling/Upskilling Initiatives:

- A total of 11,902 candidates were registered for the Microsoft Digisaksham program.
- A total of 7,108 registrations were done for TCS iON course.

(c) NCS portal has successfully integrated with UDID portal of Ministry of Social Justice on 31st March 2023 for pushing PwD jobseekers' data along with their UDID number.

(d) The integration of NCS portal with CM dashboard, Assam went Go-Live in March' 2023 for pushing Jobseekers, Vacancies, Employers related to Assam States from NCS Portal to CM Dashboard, Assam.

(e) The integration between NCS portal and State Employment portal, Mizoram went Go-Live in March' 2023 for pushing Jobseeker's data to NCS Portal from Mizoram.

l) CLC (C), (IR- Section):

a) United Forum of Maha bank Unions serviced strike notice to go on strike on 28th and 29th March 2023 to press their demands. Dy. CLC(C), Mumbai intervened and seized the matter into conciliation/joint discussion on 27.03.2023 and the strike was withdrawn by the union.

b) BAPEGTU/INTUC/BAPEU/NFITU/BAP staff Union/ AWU/ATP/BAP Mazdoor Sangam (BMS) proposed to go for one day token strike on 24.03.2023 to press their demands. ALC(C), Chennai intervened and seized the matter into conciliation on 22.03.2023 and the strike was deferred.

c) All India Insurance Employees' Association proposed to go on strike on 29.03.2023 to press their demands. CLC(C) intervened and the matter was seized into conciliation and the strike was averted.

d) The recognized unions of Refineries, Pipelines and R&D Centre of India Oil Corporation Ltd. Served strike notice, proposing to go one day token strike any day after 15.03.2023 to press their demands. CLC(C) intervened and the matter was seized into conciliation and the strike was averted.

e) Shri Narayan Singh, General Secretary, Hindustan Engineering & General Mazdoor Union served a strike notice, proposing to go on hunger strike on 16.03.2023 to press their demands. Dy. CLC(C), New Delhi, intervened and the strike was averted.

2. Important Policy Matter held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations.

NIL

3. No. of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months.

NIL

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

NIL

5. Status of ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan (progress under Special Campaign):

NIL

6. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies:

NIL

7. Information on specific steps taken for utilization of the Space Technology bases tools and applications in Governance and Development.

NIL

8. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/Department, including Autonomous Bodies/PSUs:

Sr. No.	Name of Organisations	Sanctioned Post	Filled on regular basis	Filled on additional charge basis	Vacant	Remarks
1	MoL&E(MS)	11	10	0	01	-
2	CGIT	22	13	09	00	-
3	EPFO	05	03	00	02	-
4	ESIC	03	03	00	00	-
5	CBWE	01	00	01	00	-
6	VVGNLI	01	00	01	00	-
7	DGFASLI	01	01	00	00	-
8	O/o CLC(C)	01	00	01	00	-
	Total	45	30	12	03	

9. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with:

NIL

10. Details of FDI proposals cleared during the month and status for FDI proposals awaiting approval in the Ministry/Department.

NIL
