

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND  
 Form 3  
 February 16, 2005

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

|  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *<br>Â SALM MICHAEL V<br>(Last) (First) (Middle) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement<br>(Month/Day/Year)<br>02/06/2005 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>PUTNAM HIGH INCOME BOND FUND [pcf] | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br><br>(Check all applicable)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other<br>(give title below) (specify below)<br>Managing Director, Putnam, LLC<br>/ and of its issuer's managers | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| PUTNAM<br>INVESTMENTS,Â ONE POST<br>OFFICE SQUARE<br>(Street)                            |  |   |   |  |
| BOSTON,Â MAÂ 02109<br>(City) (State) (Zip)   |  |   |   |  |

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

|                                    |  |   |  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br>(Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

|   |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year)<br><br>Date Exercisable      Expiration Date | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4)<br><br>Title      Amount or Number of | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:<br>Direct (D) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|

Shares or Indirect  
(I)  
(Instr. 5)

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                                     | Other                           |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                             |                                 |
| SALM MICHAEL V<br>PUTNAM INVESTMENTS<br>ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE<br>BOSTON, MA 02109 | â             | â         | â Managing Director, Putnam,<br>LLC | and of its issuer's<br>managers |

## Signatures

Michael V. Salm 02/16/2005

\*\*Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

### No securities are beneficially owned

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.