

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted, if any, by the said committee?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sub Committee has not yet given its report.

Wage Period Under ESI Act

3398. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the change over from 'week' as the unit of contribution to 'wage period' under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, has caused disadvantage to the cashew workers in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend it to restore 'week' as the unit of contribution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The change has deprived them of certain untended benefits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Prior to the amendment of the Act in 1984, a worker who worked for just one day in a week was required to pay contribution for a week. After the amendment, a worker who works for one day pays contribution for one day only. The amended provision is, therefore, considered more rational.

Proposal to Review Purchase Procedure of Medicines for CGHS

3399. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS goes by the lowest tender in the supply of medicines;

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in the supply of substandard medicines;

(c) whether Government propose to review the purchase procedure; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTARY): (a) to (d). CGHS is procuring all allopathic medicines included in the formulary from Medical Store-Organisation. Efforts are being made to improve the working of the Medical Stores Organisation.

Amendment To The Bonus Act

3400. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers in Public Sector are deprived of the bonus due to low limit of ceiling on income for payment of bonus; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to amend the Act to raise the ceiling in view of rise in price index?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Information on the number of workers covered by the Payment of Bonus Act is not maintained by the Ministry.

(b) There is no immediate proposal to raise the ceiling limit.

Attachment of Properties of Provident Fund Defaulter Employees

3401. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring forward a legislation to enable Government to attach the private properties of the owners of industrial establishments in case of default of payment of Provident Fund to their employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b). There is already a suitable provision in Section 8B (1) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 providing *inter-alia* for recovery of the arrears of EPF dues by attachment and sale of movable and immovable property of the defaulting establishment and where necessary, of the employers.

Memo Submitted by Consultant Institution on Incidence of Heart Attack

3402. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consultant institution on cardiology has submitted memorandum to Union Government on the problem of heart attack; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTARY): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers in Maharashtra

3403. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of textile workers in Maharashtra has tremendously decreased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Union Government to absorb or rehabilitate the workers and their families?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of workers in the organised mill sector in Maharashtra came down from 2.76 lakhs as on 31.3.87, to 2.57 lakhs on 31.3.88, to 2.20 lakhs on 31.3.89.

(c) The Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme has been set up to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of textile units. The State Governments were also advised to take measures for redeployment/rehabilitation of the affected workers.

Wastage of Foodgrains

3404. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains worth crores of rupees are lost annually due to the lack of adequate storage and transport facilities;

(b) if so, the details of foodgrains lost during the last three years, year-wise; and