

[*Translation*]

Sitapur Plywood Manufactures Limited

131. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Sitapur Plywood Manufactures Limited, Sitapur have not deposited their contribution in the Employees Provident Fund Account;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount to be deposited by the employers till date and the efforts being made to deposit this amount; and

(d) the action being taken against the employers for not depositing the said amount in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Due to financial crisis, M/s. Sitapur Plywood Manufacturers Ltd. have defaulted in payment of P.F. dues.

(c) and (d) According to the EPF Organisation a sum of Rs. 11.93 lakh is outstanding against the establishment. Necessary Revenue Recovery Certificates have been issued and sanction has also been granted for filing complaints against the employer in the Court of Law.

[*English*]

Unauthorised Colonies

132. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court had given directions to the Union Government in regard to regularisation of 1073 unauthorised colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the progress made therein; and

(c) the reasons for not regularising the sale-purchase of plots allotted under 20 point programme to the people of weaker sections of the society in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP. No. 4771/93 has restrained the respondents, including Union of India, from taking any further decision or action for regularising any unauthorised colony in Delhi till further orders. However, in its order dated 9th December, 1996, the Court directed Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment to set up a High Level Committee to examine various issues relating to unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The Committee was required to submit its report to the Hon'ble High Court. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Hon'ble High Court. The matter is still subjudice.

(c) Government of N.C.T. of Delhi has reported that plots under 20 point programme are allotted to the landless

and the houseless persons. Sale purchase of these plots is against the spirit of allotment and will defeat the purpose of allotment of plots to weaker sections of the society.

Recovery of NBCC Outstanding Amount

133. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) Limited had requested the Ministry's intervention in the recovery of the outstanding amount running into crores of rupees on account of the projects undertaken by it abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) A sum of Rs. 135.82 crore excluding interest claim of Rs. 134.69 crores is outstanding as on 31.3.97 against projects undertaken by NBCC Ltd. in Libya and Iraq. With a view to realise the outstanding dues from Libya, a delegation led by Union Minister of State for Industrial Development visited Libya in April, 1995. N.B.C.C. Ltd. has also appointed a local agent in Libya for realisation of its dues in association with the dues a Task Force has been constituted by the Government of India for realisation of the remaining dues.

Tribal Child Labour

134. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tribal Child Labour identified in the State of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them;

(c) the time schedule worked out and the amount sanctioned for their rehabilitations, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Development of Small Towns

135. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for allocation of funds for various schemes under the Centrally sponsored schemes such as

Integrated Development of Small and Medium towns, the Urban Basic Services for the Poor, the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme and the low cost sanitation;

(b) whether there is disparity in releasing funds to various States under the said schemes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government accords priority in releasing funds to those States having larger number of people living below the poverty line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The criteria for allocation of funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are as follows:-

(i) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT):-The primary criterion for allocation of funds under this scheme is the small and medium towns population in each State as a proportion of the country's total urban population residing in such towns.

(ii) Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP):-The available funds are allocated to different States/Union Territories based on the incidence of urban poverty. However, in order to ensure that sub-critical amounts are not sanctioned to UTs, a minimum floor level has been fixed for smaller States and UTs.

(iii) Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP):-The allocation of funds under the PMIUPEP is on the basis of (i) incidence of urban poverty and (ii) number of towns in a particular State/UT.

(iv) Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers:-There is no State-wise allocation of funds under this scheme. Loan and subsidy is extended simultaneously by HUDCO for construction upto substructure, after sanction of schemes on whole town basis. Central subsidy is also routed through HUDCO. The loan and subsidy portion is based on the income of the beneficiaries with the objective to provide subsidies only to lower income groups.

(b) and (c) (i) IDSMT:-Actual releases from Central Government depend on: (i) project performance including utilisation of funds released earlier, (ii) availability of State share, (iii) conformity of the proposed projects with the Scheme guidelines. etc. Before the IDSMT scheme was revised in August, 1995, the entire money released as Central share was provided as a soft loan. Accordingly, there was not much demand from some States while certain other States took full advantage of the scheme. This led to certain disparities. However, under the revised IDSMT Scheme, Central Share is being released as a grant and the criteria mentioned in part (a) of the reply is followed.

As regards the LCS, UBSP & PMIUPEP, there is no disparity in release of funds to various States.

Release of funds is however, subject to overall performance of States/UTs.

(d) and (e) (1) IDSMT:-No priority is accorded to release of funds to States having larger number of people living below the poverty line as IDSMT is not a poverty alleviation scheme.

(2) UBSP:-The funds are distributed to the larger States as mentioned in part (a) of the reply.

(3) PMIUPEP:-Priority is given to the States having larger number of people living below the poverty line on the basis of incidence of poverty and the number of towns included.

(4) LCS:-Priority is given to such towns (i) as have pre-dominance of dry latrines (ii) where there is a large scavenger population or (iii) where widespread open defecation takes place.

[English]

Indo-US Relations

136. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI MADHAVRAO, SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for External Affairs had been to USA for a two week visit;

(b) if so, the objectives of his visit; and

(c) the details of results achieved during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Saleem Iqbal Shervani paid an official visit to the United States from June 23-30, 1997.

(b) and (c) the visit constituted the first high level contact this year between the Government of India and the Government of the United States. The Minister had meetings with the Acting Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. He also met Members of the Senate and House of Representatives including the Chairman of the Near East and South Asian Affairs Committee, Senator Sam Brownback and Ranking Minority Leader, Senator Charles Robb. Congressman Benjamin Gilman, Chairman, House International Relations Committee hosted a reception while the Congressional Caucus on India and India-Americans hosted a lunch in the Minister's honour.

During these meetings, broad-based discussions were held on issues of mutual interest in the bilateral and international context. India and the United States also signed a new Extradition Treaty on June 25, 1997. On being ratified, the Treaty would replace the 1931 Extradition Treaty between the US and UK, acceded to by India and currently in force between India and the US. It constitutes an