

(b) and (c). The steps taken by the Council are considered to be adequate by them and they do not have any grievance against the Government in this matter.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Counsellors for Provident Fund Cases

5399. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether counsellors are appointed by the Department for looking after the cases pertaining to Provident Fund of the employees, if so, their number, Statewise ;

(b) whether the counsellors are paid

less fees because of which they do not take much interest in the cases ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase their fees and also give them dearness allowance like other salaried classes, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) A panel of advocates has been drawn up in each State to look after the cases relating to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. State-wise information with regard to the number of advocates is given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c). The advocates are paid fees as prescribed by the Ministry of Law for conducting cases in the High Courts and as prescribed by the State Governments in the cases of Lower Courts.

Statement

State-wise information with regard to the number of advocates appointed to look after the cases of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of empanelled advocates		Total
		Lower Court	High Court	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	2	4
2.	Bihar	Services of Assistant Public Prosecutors are taken.	4	4
3.	Delhi	4	2	6
4.	Gujarat	No panel. Cases are being Conducted by Central Government Standing Counsels and State Government Pleaders.		
5.	Punjab and Haryana	19	1	20
6.	Karnataka	6	Services of Central Govt. Standing Counsels are taken.	6

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kerala	67	Services of Central Govt. Standing Councils are taken	67
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Looked after by empanelled advocates as shown under Col. 4	9	9
9.	Maharashtra	15	3	18
10.	North Eastern Region	12	3	15
11.	Orissa	13	3	16
12.	Rajasthan	Services of Public Prosecutors are taken.	2	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	Looked after by empanelled advocates as shown under col. 4.	5	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	12	2	14
15.	West Bengal	20	22	42
Total :		170	58	228

[English]

Drought Prone Areas

5400. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that drought prone areas of India are in acute hardship for not having irrigation ;

(b) if so, the total drought prone area in India, particularly in West Bengal, Eastern U.P., and Orissa ; and

(c) specific programme taken up during the Seventh Plan for drought prone districts of Purulia, Bankura and West Dinajpur of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) Besides a degraded eco-system, the drought prone areas suffer from lack of irrigation facilities. Vagaries of monsoons create drought situations and in order to mitigate the rigorous of drought the Drought Prone Areas Programme has been formulated with emphasis on development of minor irrigation, soil and water conservation, forestry and pasture as well as animal husbandry. The programme is under implementation since 1970-71 in blocks selected on the basis of average rainfall and percentage of irrigated area. It now covers an area of about 5.53 lakh Sq. Kms. of 615 blocks in 88 districts of 13 States. Specific information regarding coverage of the programme in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa is as under :