

{*English*}

Proposal to Construct a Fishing Harbour at Portonovo in Tamil Nadu

6216. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct a Fishing Harbour at Portonovo in South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) (a) to (c) : The Government of Tamil Nadu have been requested to formulate proposals for constructing small landing centre at Portonovo. Survey and investigations of the site are required to be done in order to work out the details of the facilities to be provided.

Non-Payment of P.F. Amount to Bidi Workers

6217. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 lakh bidi workers are not getting their provident fund contribution from their employees since 1980 onwards ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANNAH) : (a) and (b) : The provisions of the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1982 were extended to the Beedi workers with effect from 31st May, 1977. Some beedi manufacturers had subsequently challenged the applicability of the Act to beedi industry in the

Supreme Court and the Court had in 1980 ordered the stay of operation of the notification extending the provisions of the Act to beedi industry, pending hearing of the case. As a result of the stay, bidi workers are not getting the benefit of provident fund under the Employees' Provident Fund Act. The hearing in the case has, however, since been concluded and the judgement is awaited.

Production and Export of Cotton

6218. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) production of cotton in the country during the last 3 years ;

(b) whether there is any change in the strategy of purchasing cotton from the growers this year ; and

(c) the capacity and value of the cotton exported during 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDKAKAR) : (a) The production of cotton during the last three years has been as under :

Year	Production (lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1981-82	70.84
1982-83	75.34
1983-84	65.82

For the year 1984-85 the final estimates of cotton production are yet to be received from such States. However, preliminary estimates indicate that the production during 1984-85 may be between 78 and 80 lakh bales.

(b) No, Sir.