

Foodgrains Production

8802. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government anticipate a glut in foodgrains production; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to exploit its recently acquired foodgrains export capabilities in view of the FAO's reported prediction of a fall in world consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Production of foodgrains in the country during the crop year 1986-87 is currently anticipated to be in the range of 149 to 151 million tonnes as compared to the production of 150.5 million tonnes in 1985-86.

(b) The foodgrains export possibilities would be explored and exploited by the Government after taking into account the domestic supply and demand as also international production/price levels.

[*Translation*]

Interest on EPF Contributions

8803. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are not paying simple interest on the employees Provident Fund deposits;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ensure proper payment of interest thereon;

(c) the number of workers who contribute towards provident fund in sugar mills in the State particularly in Ganeshwar Sugar Mill at Ramkola in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to available information, 19 sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are exempted/relaxed from the operation of the provisions of the EPF Scheme. All these mills are paying interest on the provident fund deposits. However, the rate of interest declared by three of these mills are reported to be lower than the rate of interest declared by the EPF Organisation.

(b) The EPF authorities have already advised the concerned mills to pay interest at the same rate as that declared by the EPF Organisation.

(c) and (d). 17,060 workers are reported to be contributing towards provident fund in sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. M/s. Ganeshwar Sugar Mills, Deoria has 1184 provident fund subscribers.

[*English*]

Illegal Encroachment in Bhagat Singh Market

8804. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent shop owners in Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi have occupied the front verandahs without permission;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a survey to find out the causes of such illegal encroachment by the shop owners; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.