

Assistance for Drought Prone Areas

6509. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee is proposed to be set up to work out fresh norms for assistance to chronic drought prone areas in the country particularly in favour of Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up a Committee to carry out an appraisal of the work being done for drought proofing etc. through activities undertaken under Drought Prone Areas Programme in 13 States including Orissa ; whether the existing strategy of development, programme coverage and content, scale and norms of assistance under the programme require any revision may also come up for review by this Committee. An appropriate decision taken on the recommendations of this Committee will be considered for implementation from the beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan. The composition of the Committee and its exact terms of reference etc. have not yet been finalised.

Jute Mills in Default of E.P.F. Deposits

6510. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of industrial undertakings including jute mills in and around Calcutta have failed to deposit the current deductions and the arrears of the provident fund dues of their employees with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Calcutta ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir, as on 30.9.86, 1133 unexempted establishments in West Bengal Region were reported to be in payment of EPF dues.

(b) A list of unexempted establishments in West Bengal Region which were individually in arrears of over Rs. 50,000/- as on 31.10.1986 is given below in the statement.

(c) The EPF authorities are taking the following action, for realisation of the outstanding dues :—

- (i) Revenue Recovery Certificates are issued under section 8 of the EPF Act, for recovery of the outstanding dues ;
- (ii) Prosecutions are filed under section 14 of the EPF Act ; and
- (iii) Complaints are filed under section 406/409 I.P.C. for non-payment of employees' share of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees but not deposited.