

envisages redressal machinery for speedy redressal of grievances of consumers in matters relating to defective goods, defective services, unfair trade practices, etc. It has no direct linkage with the prices and quality of goods. However, it has generated consumer awareness, particularly in regard to the quality and price aspects of commodities. By and large, the prices of essential commodities have been contained. During the past one year as on 4.2.1989 Wholesale Price Index of all commodities has increased by only 5.4 per cent.

(c) The implementation of the Act by the States and UT Administrations is closely pursued, co-ordinated and monitored. For this purpose, meetings have been held with the Food Ministers and Senior Officers of States and UTs. The matter has also been pursued through several letters, telex messages, telegrams, etc. As a result redressal forums are functioning in seven States and UTs. In addition, seven States/UTs have also notified redressal institutions.

#### **EPF dues outstanding in Kerala**

1017. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Employees Provident Fund of workers due from employers in Kerala as on 31 December, 1988; and

(b) the steps being taken to realise the dues?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) As per available information, the total amount of E.P.F. due outstanding against the employers in Kerala as on 30th Sept., 1988 was as given below:

*Rupees in lakhs*

Exempted Establishments	65.85
Un-exempted Establishments	245.48

(b) The E.P.F. authorities are generally taking the following action against the defaulters for realisation of the outstanding dues.

- (i) Issuing of Revenue Recovery certificates under section 8 of the E.P.F. Act;
- (ii) Filing of prosecution cases under section 14 of the E.P.F. Act;
- (iii) Filing of complaints under section 406/409 IPC in cases of non-payment of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees;
- (iv) Levying damages under section 14 B of the E.P.F. Act.

#### **Recommendations made by Joint Technological Conference**

1018. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the 30th Joint Technological Conference held by the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association in Ahmedabad during the first week of February, 1989; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b). The 30th Joint Technological Conference have identified thrust areas for joint action by the participating scientists and organisations rather than by the Government.

#### **Leprosy patients and Rehabilitation centres in Andhra Pradesh**

1019. SHRI K. NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people affected by leprosy in Andhra Pradesh;