

(b) The main reasons for losses of NTC mills in Karnataka are given below:

- i) old and obsolete machinery;
- ii) increase in prices of cotton and other inputs;
- iii) power cut and high cost of captive power;
- iv) excess labour force;
- v) wage increases on account of increased DA etc;
- vi) inadequate financial resources to modernise the mills and for implementing labour rationalisation schemes.

(c) NTC has formulated mill specific action plan to improve the performance of the mills.

[*Translation*]

Banned and expired Date Medicines Lying in Government Godowns

7014. SHRI S.D. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the medicines in his Ministry's godown at present which are banned and the medicines whose expiry date is over;

(b) when were these medicines purchased;

(c) the way these medicines are proposed to be utilised now; and

(d) the loss Government are likely to suffer as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Certain obsolete and time-expired items are lying in the Depots.

(b) These medicines were acquired at different dates spreading over a period of 10 years.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being made to get these medicines replaced free of cost from the manufactures in a phased manner.

[*English*]

Employees Provident Fund Arrears

7015. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Calcutta from the employees of Bengal Lamps Limited and Belrex India Limited, Calcutta about non-payment of accumulated Employees Provident Fund amount;

(b) whether the aforesaid companies have been maintaining their own Provident Fund Trusts and are reported to have diverted huge amounts therefrom for other purposes; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to protect the interest of the employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALVIYA): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the sabha in due course.