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applies only to the factories employing 20 or more persons;

Written Answers

- (b) whether the various courts are interpreting the words 20 persons as persons in regular course of employment;
- (c) whether the owners of the factories are taking advantage of these interpretation to evade application of the Act by employing less than 20 regular employees and the remaining as casual; and
- (d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PAR-LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): The employees' Provident Fund Authorities have intimated as follow:

The Employees' Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 applies to

- (a) every establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in schedule I and in which twenty or more persons are employed; and
- (b) to any other establishment employing twenty or more persons or class of such establishments which the Central Govt. may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

The Act will not however apply (a) to an establishment for a period of 3 years in case the employment strength is 50 or more and for 5 years if it employs 20 or more persons, from the date on which the establishment is, or has been set up, or (b) any establishment registered under (b) any establishment registered under the Co-operative Societies Act (2 of 1912), or under any other law for the time being in force in any state relating to Co-operative Societies employing less then fifty persons and working without the aid of power.

- (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in the case of M/s T.S. Hariharan that employment of a few persons on account of some emergency or for a very short period necessitated by some abnormal contingency which is not a reuglar feature of the business of the establishment cannot be included for computation of employment strength under section 1(2) of the E.P.F. and M. P. Act, 1952.
- (c) and (d). Certain cases of evasion have been noticed. With a view to checking evasion the enforcement staff has been instructed to be vigilant.

#### Opening of Post Offices in Gujarat

- 3177. SHRI FRASANNEHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CONTACT TIONS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether new Post Offices are also likely to be opened in Gujarat;
- (b) how many new post effices have been opened during the current year;
- (c) how many Post Offices will be opened during 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI FRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) 41 post offices have been opened so far during the current year (1977-78) out of a total target of 91.
- (c) 98 post offices are proposed to be opened during 1978-79 (upto 31-3-79).

#### Opening of hospital under E.S.I.S. in Garden Reach Area, Calcutta

- 3.78. SHRI JYOTIRMOY EOSU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LAECUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether he has received any communication with regard to opening of a hospital under ESIS in Garden Reach Area, Calcutta, which is mainly inhabited by industrial workers; and
  - (b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PAR-LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation who were asked to look into the matter have reported that they had taken up the matter with the Government of West Bengal, who are responsible for the prvision of medical care under the ESI Scheme in that State. The State Government have informed the Corporation as follows:-

A 300-bedded ESI Hospital has already been started at Budge-Budge. A proposal for construction of another 250-bedded Hospital at Thakurpur is being processed. It is expected that the above mentioned two hospitals will cater to the needs of insured persons in Garden Reach area, which is not far off. However, the feasibility of opening another hospital at Garden Reach area is being examined by the State Govern-

# मांगरोल, जिला जूनागढ़ के लिए माघवपुर (घेड़) से बुहरी टेलीफोन लाइन

3180. श्री धर्मासह भाई पटलः क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) गुजरात के जूनागड़ जिले में माधवपुर (घेड़) से मांगरोल तक दुहरी टेलीफोन लाइन की व्यवस्था करने का काम कब शुरू हुम्रा था और इस बारे में क्या प्रगति हुई है;
- (ख) उक्त दुहरी लाइनों के कब तक चाल् हो जाने की संभावना है; स्रौर
- (ग) क्या व्यापारियों ने इस बारे में कोई मांग या आन्दोलन किया था और यदि हां, तो कब और उन्होंने कैसी मांग की थी तथा उस पर सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुखदेव साय): (क) ग्रौर (ख). यह काम जुलाई, 1977 में शुरू हो गया है। दूसरे पेयर को स्थान देने के लिए बेकेट लगाए जा रहे हैं। बेहतर रखरखाव हो सके, इसके लिए लाइन को भी दूसरी जगह हटाया जा रहा है। ग्राणा है कि दूसरे पेयर बिछाने का काम वर्ष 1978 के शुरू में पूरा हो जाएगा।

(ग) श्रसंतोषजनक टेलीफोन सेवा के विरुद्ध जुलाई, 1977 में एक श्रान्दोलन हुश्रा था। खराबियां दूर कर दी गई हैं श्रीर ट्रंक सेवा को बेहतर बनाने के लिए दूसरा ट्रंक सिंकट देने का काम चल रहा है।

### सामाणा, जामनगर जिलों में टेलीफोन केन्द्र

3180 श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या गुजरात के जामनगर जिले में जामजोधपुर तालुका के समाणा ग्राम के 20 व्यक्तियों ने वहां टेलीफोन केन्द्र खोलने के लिए एक वर्ष पहल धनराशि जमा करा दी थी; ग्रीर
- (ख) यदि हां, तो वहां पर टेलीफोन केन्द्र क∉ तक खोला जायेगा ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुखदेव साय ) : (क) जी, हों।

(ख) समाणः भें 50 लाइन का एक छोटा आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंच लगाने की योजना बनाई गई है। पहले यह आशा की जाती थी कि यह एक्सचेंज मार्च, 1978 तक चालू हो जाएगा। किन्तु कुछ लाइन सामग्री की अस्थायी छप से कमी हो जाने के कारण अब यह शाशा की जाती है कि यह एक्सचेंज 1978—79 में चालू हो जाएगा।

## ध्राका टेलीफोन एक्सबेंज से जामनगर जिले के रोडवडाला को जोड़ना

3181. श्री वर्मासह भाई पटेल: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या जिला जामनगर गुजरात के जामजोधपुर तालुका के शेडवडाला ग्राम पंचायत ने ध्राका टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज से टेलीफोन लाइन की मांग की है; ग्रौर
- (ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त गांव को कब टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिया जायेगा ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नरहरि प्रसाद मुखदेव साय ): (क) जी हां।