

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b). Section 14-B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 empowers the Central and Regional Provident Fund Commissioners to impose on defaulting employers damages not exceeding the amount of arrears. The damages imposed by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in certain circumstances are reviewed by the higher authority according to a policy laid down in this behalf.

(c) and (d). A news report appeared in the Indian Express (Delhi Edition) dated the 8th June, 1977 alleging certain cases of reduction or waiving of penal damages without any legal sanction and the Shah Commission of Inquiry has called for a report which has since been submitted to them.

Amendment to Industrial Relations Act

4155. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:**

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have suggested to the Centre to bring an amendment to the Industrial Relations Act so as to make non-implementation of court awards or agreements a "serious offence" and punishment for such lapses should be compoundable;

(b) if so, the outlines of the proposal received; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the various suggestions made therein?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c). There is no Industrial Relations Act at the Centre or in Andhra Pradesh. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh sent some proposals for amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act in its application to the State. But these do not include any such suggestions.

Raising of Provident Fund Contribution

4156. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:**
Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating to raise the provident fund contribution by two per cent; and

(b) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b). The National Commission on Labour had recommended that the rate of provident fund contribution may be increased to 8% where it is 6 1/4% and to 10% where it is 8%. No final decision has yet been taken by the Government on this matter.

गोरखपुर जिले में बरहालगंज में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की संख्या तथा वहां से बुक की गई ट्रंककाल

4157. **श्री सुरेन्द्र विक्रम :** क्या संभार

मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर जिले में बरहालगंज में टेलीफोन सुविधाएं दे दी गई हैं और यदि हां, तो वहां कुल कितने टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं ;

(ख) उन टेलीफोनों के माध्यम से गोरखपुर के लिए तथा गोरखपुर से कुल कितनी ट्रंक काल बुक की गई और जनवरी से अक्टूबर 1977 तक कितनी ट्रंक कालों पर बातचीत हुई; और