

longer period. In the case of Provident Fund Inspectors (Grade I) who are Class II Officers, change of jurisdiction is generally made once in three years. There are some officers who have been retained in the same stations for more than three years on account of administrative exigencies.

(c) Does not arise.

Reasons for Non-Payment of Bonus to E.P.F. Employees even after declaring organisation as industry

4999. SHRI KALYAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that bonus is admissible to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings and Statutory Bodies under Government;

(b) is it also a fact that expenditure of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour is met out of administration and inspection charges collected from the establishments and that there lies a credit balance of few crores in the administrative account of the E.P.F. Organisation; and

(c) if so, why the employees of the E.P.F. Organisation have not been paid bonus even though the Organisation has been declared as an industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 applies to every factory and every other establishment employing 20 or more persons on any day during an accounting year, subject to the provisions of Sections 16, 20 and 32 thereof.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Payment of Bonus Act is not applicable to the employees of

the Employees Provident Fund Organisation.

Import of Coal from Australia

5000. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Government imported large amount of coking coal from Australia on C & F basis through foreign shippers;

(b) if so, whether the Shipping Corporation of India and the other shippers were not contacted to bring the cargo from Australia to India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Indian shippers were ready to bring this cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) No, Sir. We have not imported any coal from Australia so far.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Exemption to factories from Payment of Bonus

5001. SHRI AHSAN JAFRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many factories in India have applied for exemption under section 19 of the Payment of Bonus Act during 1977-78 State-wise; and

(b) the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). State Governments are the appropriate Governments under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 in respect of factories and they are empowered to grant exemption under Section 36 of the Act.