

exemption under Section 17(a). It is likely that some more applications may be received.

(ii) Only one application has so far been received under Section 17(b).

(b) No exemption order has been issued so far. Certain procedural matters are awaiting settlement before the formal notifications granting exemption are issued. Subject to the settlement of the pending issues, it is expected that about 70 per cent. of the factories which have applied for exemption are likely to be exempted.

**EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACT
(CONTRIBUTIONS)**

44. Shri Bansal: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories that have been covered by the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952;

(b) the total number of workers covered by those factories; and

(c) the total contributions received in January, 1953?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Approximately 1,680.

(b) Approximately 13,77,000.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

KULU VALLEY TRANSPORT COMPANY

45. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 990 asked on the 6th December, 1952 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the affairs of the Kulu-Valley Transport Company Ltd. has been completed and whether Government propose to lay the Report on the Table of the House;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from the staff of the company about the non-payment of their salaries and if so, whether they have taken any steps in the matter;

(c) whether Government have received representations from the public requesting for alternative arrangements for running the route; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, how long it will take to complete the enquiry and whether pending enquiry, Government

propose to take some interim measures to remove various grievances of the staff and the public?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The enquiry into the affairs of the Kulu Valley Transport Limited has been completed. The question of laying the report on the Table of the House will receive consideration after Government have taken final decisions on the subject.

(b) Yes; the matter is engaging Government's attention at present.

(c) and (d). Certain representations have been received and as already stated in reply to part (a) of the Question, the whole matter is now under consideration.

COST OF LIVING INDEX

46. Shri P. C. Bose: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the cost of living index in India and in the industrial areas of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Madras, Kanpur, Calcutta and Jharia in the years 1939, 1947 and 1952?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

| Name of the centre | Base period of the cost of living index number compiled. | Cost of living index number for the year | | |
|--------------------|--|--|------|--------------------|
| | | 1939 | 1947 | 1952 |
| Bombay | Year ending June 1934 | 106 | 279 | Not yet published. |
| Ahmedabad | Year ending July 1927 ¹ shifted to August, 1939—100 | 107 | 300 | do. |
| Madras | Year ending June 1936 | 101 | 272 | do. |
| Kanpur | August 1939—100 | 107 | 378 | do. |
| Calcutta | August 1939—100 | 108 | 309 | do. |
| Jharir | Year 1944—100 | Not compiled | 139 | do. |
| All-India | do. | do. | 120 | do. |