

interviews that large scale corruption is prevalent in the final settlement of claims, grant of advances and loans in the Accounts Branch of the various Regional Offices in general and Delhi in particular ; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps the Central Commissioner has taken in the matter ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** The administration of the Employees Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under :

- (a) No.  
(b) Does not arise.

**Excise Duty on Free Sale Sugar in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu**

7037. **SHRI LAKSHMINARAYAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent on the release of levy sugar from the factories in Maharashtra, the sugar factories in Maharashtra paid Excise Duty @ 37½ per cent on free sale sugar on 30 per cent of their production in the year 1969-70 ;

(b) whether this facility was not given to the factories in Tamil Nadu and they had to pay Excise Duty on more than 30 per cent of their production, contrary to the declared policy of Government to treat only 30 per cent as free sugar and balance as levy sugar ;

(c) the reasons of this discrimination between Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra ; and

(d) whether Government propose to refund the excess Excise duty collected from the factories of Tamil Nadu ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) :** (a) to (c). During the year 1969-70 the rate of excise duty on free sale sugar as well as on levy sugar was 23 per cent *ad valorem* prior to 1st March, 1970, but from 1st March, 1970 it was increased to 25 percent *ad valorem* on levy sugar and 37.5 percent on free sale sugar. The percentage of releases of free sale sugar to

production of the year 1969-70 made to sugar factories in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu during the year 1969-70 (1st October, 1969 to 30th September, 1970) was uniform. However, on account of poor lifting of levy sugar quotas allotted from factories in high cost zones (including Tamil Nadu) and consequent accumulation of stocks with them, larger quantities of sugar were released for free sale from factories having larger stocks with a view to reduce disparity in their stock position.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mushroom Cultivation**

7038. **SHRI BHUVARAHAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where mushroom is cultivated in India under the Department or in private side ;

(b) the total production of mushroom for the last two years ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the production by using modern methods ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :** (a) The mushroom is grown in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, U. P. and Union Territory of Delhi.

(b) Rough estimates are as follows :

	1966-70	1970-71
(i) Guchhi	21,000 kg.	13,200 Kg.
(ii) white mushroom	Not available	25,000 Kg.

Type

Precise information is not available.

(c) Yes, Sir. The techniques of increasing production developed by the Mushroom Research Institute, Solan are being extended to other mushroom growing areas.

**Non-Production of Employees Provident Fund Records by M.s. Royal Timber Corporation Jharia, Dhanbad**

7039. **SHRI R. P. YADAV :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether prosecution was launched

for non-production of records under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, against M/s. Royal Timber Corporation P. O. Jharia, Dhanbad, but the case was subsequently withdrawn ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the case ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI. R. K. KHADILKAR) :** The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act. 1952 and is not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under :

(a) and (b). M/s. Royal Timber Corporation, P.O. Jharia, Dhanbad were prosecuted for non-production of records before the Provident Fund Inspector, but the prosecution was withdrawn subsequently after the management produced the records and their inspection showed that the establishment was not coverable at that time.

**Request for more Funds for Implementation of Crash Programme for Rural Employment in States**

7040. **SHRI N. E. HORO :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States have demanded more funds for rural employment and showed their inability to the centrally-financed Rs. 50 crores crash programme for rural employment ; and

(b) if so, which are those States ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) :** (a) and (b). Allocation of funds under the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment is made at the rate of Rs. 12.50 lakhs per district. Some of the State Governments had represented that allocations should be made with reference to the number of blocks in the district or in proportion to the rural population in the districts. But no State expressed inability to implement the Scheme on the score of inadequate allocation. The request of the State Governments was considered carefully and it was decided to increase the allocation of seven states. They are Andhra Pradesh,

Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

**Farmers Parliamentary Forum on the use of Fertiliser**

7041. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Farmers Parliamentary Forum has made any contribution in promoting fertiliser and other chemical input use in agriculture ;

(b) the memorandum representation etc. Government have received from the forum in the last three years ; and

(c) whether the copies of representations will be placed on the Table ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) :** (a) to (c). Information about the activities of the Farmers' Parliamentary Forum and the Memorandum, representation etc., submitted by it to the Government in the last three years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. At this stage, it is not possible to say what contribution the Forum has made in promoting fertilisers and other chemical inputs use in agriculture.

**Setting up of a Copper Extraction Factory in Sikkim**

7042. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in the hill areas bordering Darjeeling District of West Bengal and Sikkim State, there are large deposits of copper and with a view to extract such copper deposits, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim, have set up a Copper Extraction Factory in Sikkim ; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) and (b). A small deposit of copper, occurring with zinc and lead, in the Rangpo area in Sikkim bordering Darjeeling district was located by the Indian Bureau of Mines. To exploit the deposit, the Sikkim Mining Corpora-