

Mills Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu ;

(b) whether any action has been taken by Government against the management to collect the Provident Fund arrears ;

(c) if so, what ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : 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) to (c). As on 28-2-1971, M/s. Somasundaram Mills (Private) Ltd., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu were in default of about Rs. 18.37 lakhs of both shares of provident fund contributions. In July, 1970, the State Government had allowed several defaulting textile mills, including this establishment, to clear the arrears of provident fund dues by instalments. But the establishment did not comply with the instalmental Scheme. Accordingly, Revenue recovery certificates have been issued for the entire amount. Prosecution cases under Section 14 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act are under progress. Action under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code has also been initiated. The State Government and the District Collector have also been approached for recovery of the dues.

#### Adjustment of Sugar-cane Price

1803. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether minimum price of sugar-cane for the last year is adjusted on the basis of an index of prices of competing crops so as to preserve the parity between the price of sugar-cane, on the one hand, and the price of competing crops on the other ;

(b) whether Government are inclined to follow the above principle as one of the

basis for fixation of minimum price of sugar-cane ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) The minimum price of sugar-cane is fixed having regard to the factors laid down in clause 3 of the Sugar-cane (Control) Order, 1966. These are :

- (a) the cost of production of sugar-cane ;
- (b) the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities ;
- (c) the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price ;
- (d) the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar ; and
- (e) the recovery of sugar from sugarcane ;

(b) and (c). The return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities is already one of the principles which is taken into account for the purpose of fixation of cane price.

#### Inquiry Committee on Sugar Industry

1804. SHRI D. K. PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Inquiry Committee set up by Government on Sugar Industry has made any arrangement for taking or consulting representatives of Cane Growers Associations and Workers' Unions either Industry-wise or State-wise ;

(b) whether Government have issued any directions to the Committee in this regard ;

(c) if not, the arrangements made for assessing the real requirements of each