

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

industry as proclaimed by Government ; and

(d) the time fixed for completion of the work of the Inquiry Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Sugar Industry Inquiry Commission already has on it members representing the interests of sugar-cane growers and sugar factory workers. Government have also prescribed its terms of reference. The Commission will during the course of its deliberations and before making its recommendations, consult all interests it considers necessary, including representatives of sugarcane growers and sugar factory workers.

(d) As per the terms of appointment of the Commission on the 28th September, 1970, the Commission are required to submit their report to the Government by the 31st August, 1971. But, they have asked for extension of time by one year and the matter is under consideration.

Implementation of Wage Board Awards in Manganese Mines of Baragemda and Gua Area of Bihar

1805. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the non-implementation of the Wage Board awards in the iron ore and manganese mines of Baragemda and Gua area of Bihar ;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the awards ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the award in these mines ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) Out of 16 Iron Ore Mines, 4 are reported to have implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board partially ; the remaining 12 have not implemented the recommendations. No Wage Board was set up for manganese mines.

(b) and (c). The recommendations are not enforceable statutorily and implementation has to be secured mainly through persuasion and advice. Necessary efforts in this regard are continued to be made.

Report by the Committee on Water Supply in Collieries

1806. SHRI DINESH JOARDER : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Committee was set up at the 10th Session of Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held at Dhanbad on 30th January, 1967 on the problem of water supply in the collieries ;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report ;

(c) their main recommendations ; and

(d) the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) to (d). A three man Sub-Committee set up in pursuance of the decision of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining (30th January, 1967) made certain recommendations for expediting implementation of water supply schemes and payment to the colliery managements under the Subsidy Scheme of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. These recommendations and action taken thereon are indicated in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—372/71.*]

Introduction of Concept of Water Management in Agriculture

1807. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has urged upon the agricultural scientists to introduce the concept of water management into agriculture so that huge acreage of land,