

Arrears of Employees Provident Fund Contributions under Coal Mines Provident Fund Act

3073. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the mounting arrears of Provident Fund contributions under Coal Mines Provident Fund Act ;

(b) the approximate amount of arrears of Provident Fund contributions under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act ;

(c) the special steps being taken to reduce the arrears ;

(d) whether any prosecutions under Sections 406 and 409 of the Indian Penal Code have been launched for realization and if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHAILKAR) : The administration of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, is the concern of the Board of Trustees set up under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 and is not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Coal Mines Provident Fund authorities have reported as follows :

(a) (i) Failure of the defaulting employers to pay the instalments allowed by the recovery Committee for clearing Provident Fund Dues.

(ii) Deferment of legal action due to grant of instalments by the Recovery Committee for payment of Provident Fund dues.

(iii) Penal provisions in the Act for defaultis are not sufficiently deterrent and legal processes take considerable time.

(b) At the end of December, 1970 approximately a sum of Rs. 6.87 crores was outstanding from the

defaulting employers on account of arrears of Provident Fund.

(c) (ii) The Recovery Committee was abolished in December, 1970 and vigorous legal action against defaulting employers has been taken by way of certificate cases and prosecutions under the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 and also under Section 406 I.P.C.

(ii) The State Governments of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been addressed by Central Government to issue instructions to the certificate Officers for expeditious disposal of pending certificate cases.

(iii) The State Government's of Bihar and West Bengal have been requested to appoint a Certificate Officer in each State to deal exclusively with the certificate cases of the Coal Mines Provident Fund.

(vi) The question of amending the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Family Pension and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 to provide for more deterrent punishment for violation of the Act and the Scheme, is under consideration.

(d) Prosecutions under Section 406 I.P.C. have been launched against 16 defaulting collieries. All these cases are subjudice.

Cases filed by Regional Provident Fund Commissioners

3074. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether criminal cases are filed by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners,