

indiscriminately and without examining carefully as to whether the Provident Fund contributions and Administrative charges have been paid or not ;

(b) whether these cases are simultaneously withdrawn after charging nominal legal expenses and there is no uniform pattern for the same ; and

(c) if so, the total amount of legal expenses realized from each of the States for the last three years, years-wise and month-wise and the account in which the same has been credited and the manner in which it has been utilized for ultimate benefit of the subscribers ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** The administration of 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) No.

(b) The cases are withdrawn, in suitable cases, where the defaulting establishment makes timely amends and reimburses the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation its expenditure on the case that has been started.

(c) The amount realized is credited to the Organisation Administrative Account. Information regarding State-wise recoveries is not readily available.

**Penal Damages realized by Employees Provident Fund Organisation**

3075. **SHRI R. P. YADAV :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of penal damages realized by Employees Provident Fund Organisation in each of the States during the last three years, year-wise and month-wise ;

(b) the accounts in which the amounts of penal damages so realized have been credited ; and

(c) the manner in which the amounts of penal damages so realized have been utilized for the good of the subscribers ?

**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) Two statements I and II showing the amount of penal damages realized on belated payment of Provident Fund contributions by the employers of unexempted establishments and Administrative/Inspection charges for each quarter during the last three years i.e. 1968, 1969 and 1970 are laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library, See No. LT-525/71*].

(b) The penal damages realised pertaining to contributions and Administrative/Inspection charges are credited to Employees' Provident Fund Account No. I (Contribution Account) and Employees' Provident Fund Account No. II (Administrative Account) respectively.

(c) Penal damages realised on belated payment of Provident Fund Contributions are utilized for declaring higher rate of interest on the Provident Fund accumulations of members of the Fund and those on Administrative/Inspection charges are utilised towards the administration of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Funds Act and the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme framed thereunder.

**Relaxation of Period of Entitlement for Employees Provident Fund Membership**

3076. **SHRI R.P. YADAV :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal

to relax the period of entitlement of an employee to Employees Provident Fund membership by amending para 26 of the Employees' Provident Fund Act so as to bring it at par with Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, 1948.

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** No such proposal is under consideration.

**Canadian help for Refugees from East Bengal**

3077. **SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the help already given or to be given by Canada for refugees from East Bengal?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** The Government of Canada have pledged an assistance of \$2 million in foodstuff, medical supplies and cash to be forwarded through the United Nations and private agencies. An aeroplane carrying medical supplies arranged by the OXFAM Canada has already arrived in Calcutta on 9th June, 1971. A mobile hospital has also been offered by Canada to Indian Red Cross Society.

**Conference of 13 Commonwealth Sugar Producing Countries**

3078. **SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the Conference held by the 13 Commonwealth Sugar Producing countries in June, 1971 in London; and

(b) if so, the matters discussed and decisions arrived at?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions centred round the European Economic Community's offer on

Sugar at present being imported by U. K. from Commonwealth countries under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, after 1974 in the event of U. K.'s entry into the Community.

The British Government and other Commonwealth Governments participating in the discussions regarded this offer as a firm assurance of a secure and continuing market in the enlarged Community for the quantities of sugar covered by the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement in respect of all existing developing member countries, who may continue to plan their future production of sugar on this basis.

**Spread of Virus and Fungus as a result of Import of Seeds from U.S.A. and Taiwan without Quarantine**

3079. **SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether virus and fungus disease had extensively damaged over the last few years crops of paddy, wheat, soyabean, pulses and potato in West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) whether the breaking out of these diseases was a direct result of hurried introduction into the country of seeds imported in bulk from U.S.A. Taiwan and other countries without necessary quarantine;

(c) whether the Director, Central Rice Research Institute had cautioned Government on introduction of certain paddy varieties and that his warning had been ignored;

(d) whether Government have taken steps to investigate and fix responsibility for this agricultural disaster; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):** (a) Some of