

Statement

In December 1967 the State authorities were advised to take the following measures for the speedy disposal of cases :—

- (i) The judge strength should be increased to the extent necessary taking into account the institutions and disposals and volume of case-arrears pending disposal.
- (ii) The vacancies in the High Court should be filled without delay.
- (iii) Whenever a serving Judge is diverted to other duties and is not likely to come back to the High Court within six months, an Additional or *ad-hoc* Judge should be appointed in his place so that the work in the High Court does not suffer.

Consequently, the Judge strength of the Calcutta High Court has been increased from 32 to 39 during the last three years. Nine posts of Additional Judge have also been converted into posts of permanent Judge.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of a former Chief Justice of India has been appointed to go into the problem of arrears in the High Court and to suggest other remedial measures. The Committee is also expected to suggest such changes in the legal procedures as may be necessary for the speedy disposal of cases. Further steps to reduce the arrears in the High Courts, including the Calcutta High Court, will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

The Law Commission has suggested certain specific amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in its Twenty-Seventh Report with a view to eliminating or minimising delays in civil litigation and thereby reducing costs. A Bill further to amend the Code to give effect to the amendments suggested by the Law Commission is proposed to be introduced in Parliament.

The Law Commission has also made a number of recommendations for the amendment of procedural law in criminal matters. Most of them have been accepted by Government and a Bill for the revision of the Code

of Criminal Procedure is now before a Select Committee of Parliament.

Gratuity Scheme for Workers in Beas and Sutlej Link Project

3334. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no comprehensive gratuity scheme for the workers of Beas and Sutlej Link Project, Mandi, Sundernagar District, (Himachal Pradesh) ;

(b) whether Government are considering to frame a gratuity scheme for the Beas and Sutlej Link Project workers ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As the employments on project is of a temporary nature, introduction of comprehensive gratuity scheme is not considered necessary. However the workers of the Project who are not covered by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme are as a special case given *ex-gratia* compensation equivalent to 15 days average pay of every completed year on superannuation provided they have completed five years continuous service on the Project.

Increased Price of Salt in Northern Bihar

3335. SHRI R. P. YADAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of salt in Northern Districts of Bihar *viz.*, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Purnea, etc. has increased considerably ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to curb this rising trend in salt prices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The Government of Bihar have intimated that no report about increase in price