

in contrast to 9 years in exempted establishments and elsewhere; and

(b) if so, whether Government intend to bring at par the members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and others?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) An employee covered by the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 gets full payment of employer's share of contributions irrespective of the period of membership in the cases specified in paragraph 69(1) of the Scheme which include cases of retirement after attaining the age of 55 years, permanent and total invalidation, migration for permanent settlement abroad and retrenchment. In the remaining types of cases covered by paragraph 69(2) of the Scheme, which include cases of discharge without payment of retrenchment compensation under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, full payment of employer's share is made if the member has completed 15 years of membership of the Fund. In the exempted establishments, the said period varies from establishment to establishment.

(b) No.

Reserve and Forfeiture Account of E.P.F. Scheme

226. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of the fund of the Reserve and Forfeiture Account of the Employees Provident Fund scheme; and

(b) the nature of investment of this fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund

61 LSS/73—3.

Authorities have intimated as under:—

(a) Rs. 867.13 lakhs as on 30-9-1973.

(b) This is a proforma account and forms a part of the "Provident Fund Account", the moneys belonging to which are invested in securities in accordance with the pattern of investment approved by the Central Government from time to time. There is no separate investment of the amounts credited to the Reserve and Forfeiture account.

Manufacture of Lambretta Scooters by Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow

227. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which Lambretta Scooters will be put in the market by the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow; and

(b) the approximate on-the-road sale price thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY: (a) October, 1974.

(b) The ex-factory retail selling price of the Scooter will be worked out on the basis of actual production costs which will be known by July 1974.

Fall in Birth rate of Hindu Community

228. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the birth rate of Hindu Community has been falling considerably as compared to other communities ; and

(b) if so, the birth rate of Hindus and other communities of the country during the last three years?