

have been set for the implementation of some its conclusions. These relate to the revision of the minimum rates of wages in the Jute Industry; submission of the Report of the Committee set up in Andhra Pradesh for standardisation of wages in the jute industry; and removal of anomalies in the implementation of I. L. C. Convention No. 100.

Uniform test standard

1581. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in a local daily dated the 22nd October, 1974 under the caption "Uniform test standard urged"; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) All Public Analysts and Food (Health) Authorities have already been advised by the Director General of Health Services to adopt uniform testing methods for edible oils particularly for mustard oil.

Raising the retirement age of Defence Officers

1582. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the current price hike, service officers, particularly those on the verge of retirement from the Armed forces, are deeply concerned over their resettlement in civil life on retirement or release from the services;

(b) whether defence service officers retire earlier than the civilian counterpart, between 40 and 52 years of age; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to make the retirement age of Defence Officers equivalent to civilian counterparts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) The officers retire at an age when they are fit enough to start new careers in Civil life and Government helps them under various schemes to do so. The present economic stresses also make it necessary for them to do some work.

(b) Yes, Sir. Most of the Defence Services officers retire between these ages.

(c) Early retirement is necessary to keep Army young to enable the fighting personnel to withstand the stress and strain of hard life. It will not be wise, therefore, to make the retirement age of Service Officers equivalent to that of their civilian counterparts.

Damage to Indian Embassy in Nepal

1583 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY.

SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:
SHRI M. C. DAGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether some of our office buildings in Kathmandu were damaged by local demonstrators in September, 1974;

(b) if so, the extent of the loss suffered; and

(c) the action taken for claiming compensation for the damages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As a result of the demonstrations in Kathmandu on the 3rd and 4th

September 1974 the Embassy's Cultural Centre and the Indian Cooperation Mission suffered damage in which display windows were smashed and the exterior of the premises damaged.

(c) While lodging protests with the Nepalese Government, we have reserved the right to seek compensation.

Coverage of two Beedi establishments in Monghyr under E.P.F. Act

1584. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether two establishments namely M/s. S. K. Khaliuddin A. Satar Beedi Factory, Shekhpur, Monghyr and M/s. S. K. Nasariuddin Beedi Merchant of the same locality are covered under the E.P.F. Act, 1952 and the scheme framed thereunder with effect from the 31st December, 1965 and 10th March, 1966 respectively;

(b) whether both the establishments are in default in payment of provident fund dues and in submission of returns since the date of their coverage;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Bihar, to secure compliance;

(d) whether the coverage files of those establishments have been misplaced, destroyed; and

(e) whether the Regional Commissioner, Bihar has taken any action to trace out the files and if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (e). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Coverage of cold storage establishments under E.P.F. and F.P.F. Act, 1952

1585. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cold storage establishments in Bihar, particularly in Patna Division, covered under the Employees Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 till 30th September, 1974 and how many establishments are still to be covered; and

(b) the names of those uncovered establishments and the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Criminal cases under E.P.F. Act against M/s. Bihar Ceramic Works, Monghyr

1586. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether 10 criminal cases under Section 14 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952 filed in the year 1968 against M/s. Bihar Ceramic Works of Monghyr are being treated as closed with the connivance of the Provident Fund Inspectors; and

(b) if not, what action has been taken by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Bihar, to expedite the disposal of the cases in the court?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.