

(d) and (e). The extent of reduction, if any, is not known since the corresponding statistics for 1967 are not yet available; there is also no information as to how much of it would be due to recession. The facilities offered by Employment Exchanges are open to retrenched personnel along with other persons seeking employment.

**EMPLOYEES UNDER THE COMMISSIONER OF PROVIDENT FUND**

3990. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees working under the Commissioner of Provident Fund have submitted any charter of demands in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet them ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :** (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the Charter of Demands is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-460/68]

(c) No action by Government is due in the matter at this stage. The demands are under consideration of the Central Board of Trustees, Employee's Provident Fund.

**रिक्शा चलाने का व्यवसाय**

3991. श्री ओंकार लाल बोहरा : क्या श्रम तथा पुनर्वासि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कलकत्ता में जो देश का सबसे बड़ा नगर है, आदमियों द्वारा रिक्शा चलाई जाती है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस अमानवीय व्यवसाय को समाप्त करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

**श्रम तथा पुनर्वासि मंत्री (श्री हाथी) :**

(क) जी हाँ।

(ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा की भेज पर रख दी जायेगी।

**PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN WEST BENGAL**

3992. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news-item in the 'Statesman' of the 16th February, 1968 published from Calcutta that West Bengal has so far procured 1,45,000 tonnes of rice against its target of 700,000 tonnes and the procurement rate has dropped from 5,000 tonnes a week to 3,000 tonnes at present, while open market prices continued to be too high to attract customers;

(b) whether Government have probed into the matter; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The weekly rate of procurement quoted in the Statesman is not correct. Actual procurement was much higher though it is a fact that the quantity procured in February was comparatively less. The main reason for fall in the rate of procurement in February 1968 was increased political uncertainty and diversion of police to maintain law and order leading to less effectiveness in the cordoning of surplus districts and statutorily rationed areas and rise in open market prices. The rate of procurement has improved in the second half of February.