

Revenue Department, Kerala

5123. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Trichur, the district authorities purchased three acres 23 cents of land in 1958;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in 1960 Government had to pay Rs. 19,178 as interest because of some delay in the Revenue Department; and

(c) if so, the persons responsible for this and the action taken against him?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Defence Supplies in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Hathi): (a) The State Government acquired and did not purchase three acres 23 cents of land in Trichur 1958.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On an examination of the course taken by the case, it is found that there was no inordinate delay at any stage to warrant disciplinary action against any particular officer.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

5124. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour organisations have urged upon Government to extend the Employees Provident Fund Scheme to cover all the persons employed in all industries and services;

(b) whether they have also requested for increasing the rate of contribution from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Yes.

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(c) The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, which initially applied to six industries, has been gradually extended to more industries and it now applies to 103 industries and classes of establishments. It is proposed to extend the Act to further industries as quickly as possible after taking into consideration the financial and other allied aspects.

The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952 was amended with effect from the 1st January, 1963, empowering the Government to enhance the rate of provident fund contribution from 6½ per cent to 8 per cent after making an enquiry. The rate of contribution has already been enhanced in 33 industries. It is proposed to apply the enhanced rate to 7 more industries shortly. Necessary enquiry is also being made in respect of some other industries.

Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.

5125. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Eloor (Kerala) earned a profit for the last four years;

(b) if so, how much each year; and

(c) whether there were losses in any year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, except for the year 1962-63 and 1964-65.

(b) In 1961—Rs. 32,63,804 (Net profit).

In 1963-64—Rs. 12,51,339 (Net profit).

(c) Yes. There were losses in 1962-63 and 1964-65.