

Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies on its own vigour. All the Establishments including aided educational institutions of Chandigarh employing 20 or more persons are required to deposit provident fund with the EPF authorities. If they default in payment of provident fund, they are liable for legal and penal action as provided under the Act. The EPF Scheme is of compulsory nature. Exemption from the EPF Scheme is generally considered if the employees of the establishments are in receipt of similar/superior PF related benefits. Any application for exemption as and when received from the aided educational institutions of Chandigarh will be processed accordingly.

Import of Edible Oil

5428. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of edible oil is being permitted in the recent Budget at a reduced rate of import duty;

(b) if so, whether it lead to steep fall of prices of coconut which is the main stay of economy of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take for maintaining the economic price of coconut and coconut oil ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has not been steep fall in the prices of coconut since the Budget for 1996-97 was announced on 25th July, 1996. In fact, the prices of coconut have been showing an upward trend at selected centres in Kerala. The Government has already taken the following steps to maintain the prices of coconut and coconut oil :—

- (i) Coconut oil is not permitted for import under OGL.
- (ii) Use of coconut oil in manufacture of vanaspati is allowed.
- (iii) The Government has also requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to popularise the use of coconut oil as cooking medium in respective States/UTs.
- (iv) Copra is covered under Support-Price Operation.

Salaries to Imams and Moujars

5429. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to pay the salaries to Imams and Moujars of Masjids, which are without assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

5430. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to each voluntary organisation/institution to check the use of drugs in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have examined the results thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) List is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (e) The information with regard to drug addicts during the last three years for treatment in the various drug addicts/Counselling Centres in different parts in Uttar Pradesh, financially assisted by this Ministry under the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention are as under :

Year	Drug addicts Registered	Drug addicts Detoxified
1993-94	37,398	14,966
1994-95	40,343	20,145
1995-96	53,442	23,006

The Ministry evaluates the performance of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) before release of instalments of grants-in-aid for the programme.