

bonded labour and directed all State Governments to file detailed affidavits. The Union Government has through a series of detailed guidelines advised the State Governments to implement the Bonded Labour System (Abolition Act, 1976 vigorously. The implementation of the Act is being monitored regularly through monthly reports and review meetings with State Government representatives from time to time.

Indus Water Treaty

4963. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state .

(a) whether the leaders of Jammu & Kashmir have been pressing for review of the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan as this ran counter to the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter, if any

(c) whether the state of Jammu & Kashmir was taken into confidence before this treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) (a) and (b) No request has been received by Government from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for review of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan

(c) and (d) The State of Jammu & Kashmir was taken into confidence before the Indus Waters Treaty was concluded.

Control of RBI Over Banks

4964. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the private sector banks, cooperative banks and such like banks which have come within the purview of control of the R.B.I. regarding their functioning to ensure proper functioning of these banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the provisions contained in Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 Reserve Bank is vested with multifarious powers to ensure orderly functioning of the private sector banks. The regulatory powers of RBI relate to (a) Control over management of banks (b) licensing of banks and opening of branch offices by them (c) maintenance of minimum paid up capital and reserves and liquid assets by banks (d) interest rates to be charged on loans and advances (e) control over loans and advances (f) giving directions to banks on various matters (g) suspension of business and winding up of banking companies, etc. RBI is also empowered to inspect the private sector banks.

Smuggling of Ball Bearings

4965. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large scale smuggling of ball bearings into India;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last one year; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to protect the interest of indigenous ball bearing manufacturers in the wake of large scale smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Joint Venture of Insurance

4966. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether joint venture agreements on insurance sector were signed recently between Indian and British firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether joint venture on insurance sector is allowed as per rule of the land ; and

(d) if not how the agreement has been signed by the Indian and British firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Under the existing Insurance Laws all insurance business is at present the exclusive privilege of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries. LIC and GIC and its subsidiaries have not entered into any joint venture agreements with any British firms recently. Government do not have any official information regarding memorandum of understanding or agreements signed between private parties.

Amendment in Factory Act

4967. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the anomaly by suitable amending the Factories Act 1948 so that the power given under section -1-A of the Act to Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institute to enter into any factory and conduct survey work in regard to the safety and health of the workers can be exercised by them and they are also empowered to enforce the recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Section 91-A of the Factories Act, 1948 empowers the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes to enter into any factory and conduct surveys into areas of safety and health. D.G.F.A.S.L.I. has been conducting surveys. His recommendations are made available to the State Governments for appropriate action at their end. The matter is also pursued through meetings with the State Government officials and Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories.

Metal Box India Ltd.

4968. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metal Box India Ltd. could not be reopened in spite of the decision taken by BIFR, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) has reported that two units of Metal Box India Ltd. are currently under operation and no other unit has been opened subsequent to the approval of rehabilitation scheme by BIFR.

BIFR has reported that the rehabilitation scheme for revival of the company was sanctioned on 10.06.1996, however, the date of implementation of the scheme was kept in abeyance by the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) on the appeals filed by Metal Box India Ltd., M/s Banque Nationale De Paris and Association of Engineering Workers of Metal Box India Ltd. The AAIFR in its Order dated 06.03.1997 has modified the scheme sanctioned by BIFR on 10.06.1996.

[Translation]

Agricultural Workers

4969. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture is the major industry of the country in which the most of the labour force is utilised;

(b) if so, whether three fourth of the number of farmers engaged in agriculture sector are small and marginal farmers who can generate more and more opportunities of employment for labour by adopting the new labour intensive agricultural technique ;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken some effective measures to invest the new labour based agriculture technique and to utilise it for generating new and additional opportunities of employment for labour in the agriculture sector of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the percentage of the total labour force of the country earning livelihood from agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) Agriculture is generally not classified as an industry but it provides employment to the largest number of workers in the country. It is also a fact that a large number of workers engaged in agriculture sector are small and marginal farmers and that about 67% of the total workforce in the country earn its livelihood from this sector.

The National Commission On Rural Labour in their Report submitted to the Prime Minister in 1991 have observed that mechanisation of farm operations reduces the demand for labour. However, opinion is divided on the subject and there is a conterview that mechanisation improves productivity of land and labour and in fact opens up more employment opportunities.

The problem of under employment amongst agricultural labourers is sought to be tackled through a multi-dimensional course of action viz. improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification to non-farm activities, skill improvement, financial assistance and other developmental programmes, increased outlays for rural sector etc. The Government have taken up schemes for intensive development of infrastructure and rural industries especially those with backward linkages with agriculture. A major Programme viz. Science and Technological applications for rural development and also a scheme called Mass Employment Generation through Science and Technology (MEGST) have been taken up in addition to development of waste land and water conservation programmes.

Construction of building of Employees P.F.

4970. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the formalities have been completed to construct a building of Employees Provident Fund in Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the works which have been completed for the construction of this building;

(d) the efforts being made for early construction of this building;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility on any officer to hamper construction work of the building; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) The Work relating to planning and constuction of a building of E.P.F. at Surat was entrusted to M/s. N.B.C.C. on 14th January, 1994. However, in the meantime, a proposal for outright purchase of the building "RAJDEEP CHAMBERS" in which the Employees' Provident Fund Office, Surat is functioning at present, has been mooted. Pending finalisation of the proposal to purchase the building, the construction of own building of EPFO has been kept in abeyance.