

(d) whether Government propose to increase the monthly allotment and sanction additional quota for Onam festival; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) The total procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) during the last marketing season, i.e., 1988-89 (October-September) was 77.22 lakh tonnes.

(b) The State Government has been demanding allocation of 1.60 lakh tonnes of rice per month since February, 1990.

(c) The State Government was allocated 1.35 lakh tonnes of rice of the month of July, 1990.

(d) An increase in the allocation of rice to Kerala has already been made from July, 1990 quota. In order to enable Kerala Government to meet increased demand during Onam festival, an additional allocation of 20,000 tonnes has also since been made.

(e) The allotments of wheat and rice are made to the various States/Union Territories on a month to month basis, taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors. These allotments are, however, only supplemental to open market availability.

Labour Courts in Delhi

*31. **SHRI R.N. RAKESH:**
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more labour courts in Delhi to remove the over burden on present labour courts and expedite finalisation of the pending cases;

(b) if so, the number of such courts to be set up;

(c) the time by which these courts will be set up; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose, if any?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). One more Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and four more Labour Courts under the Delhi Administration, are proposed to be set up during the current year.

(d) A sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs each has been provided by the Central Government/Delhi Administration.

[*Translation*]

Plight of Katihar Jute Mills Workers

*32. **SHRI YUVRAJ:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Katihar Jute Mills in Bihar is making its normal production and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the workers of the mills are being paid their wages regularly and also receiving repayment of the outstanding amount of their provident fund;

(c) if not, the details thereof, and

(d) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Textiles, the Katihar Jute Mills, Katihar is not making any production at present and is closed since 1987 due to financial difficulties. The mill was reportedly incurring cash losses of Rs. 17.25 lacs per month.

(b) and (c). The workers of the mill are not being paid regularly their wages and the provident fund dues. As per the information available the outstanding liability of the mill on account of wages, salaries and statutory due is of the order of Rs.4.50 crores. An amount of Rs. 50 lacs towards provident fund contributions was recoverable from the mill as on the 31st March, 1989.

(d) The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and the State Government of Bihar are jointly exploring the possibility of re-opening the mill. The Ministry of Textiles have requested the Government of Bihar that a package be worked out indicating an annual projection and the one time and recurring fund requirements for consideration of the Central and the State Government to resume the operation of the mill. The reply of the Government of Bihar is awaited. For the recovery of the provident fund arrears, the provident fund authorities are taking the following action:-

- (i) Issue of revenue recovery certificate under Section 8 of the E.P.F. Act;
- (ii) Prosecution under Section 14 of the E.P.F. Act;
- (iii) Complaints under Section 406/409 IPC in the cases of non-payment of contribution deducted from the wages of the employees; and
- (iv) Levy of damages under Section

14-B of the E.P.F. Act.

Diversion of Sugar from P.D.S.

*33. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the sugar meant for public Distribution System is diverted to market by traders in cities and as a result of which the poor people living in rural and adivasi areas do not get their quota of sugar from fair price shops;

(b) if so, the action taken to stop this evil practice;

(c) whether Government propose to abolish dual price policy of sugar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) and (b). No, Sir. The State Governments/UT Administrations, which administer the Public Distribution System, have been advised from time to time to keep vigilance over the distribution of PDS items, including sugar, and take strict action against those who indulge in malpractices.

(c) There is no proposal to abolish the policy of dual pricing of sugar.

(d) The existing policy of partial control has stood the test of time and has proved to be suited to the prevailing circumstances.

[English]

Legislation of Code on Infant Food

*34. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINIALI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the replies given on 7 May, 1990 to supplementaries on Starred Question No.