

of these, the WAPCOS has been able to secure 221 assignments so far.

Seniority In FCI

9071. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI, South Zone have the High Court directions to implement the 16 (3) of the Staff Regulations to govern the seniority of its employees;

(b) if so, whether the direction has been complied with; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (c). The Food Corporation of India has reported that the seniority list of Assistants Grade —III (Depot) in their South zone was revised as per direction of Kerala High Court.

Coverage of Establishment under the E.P.F. Act

9072. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment strength of 20 or more persons is required for three months continuously for bringing an establishment under the purview of E.P.F. Act;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that establishments in Delhi, employing 20 persons even for a single day, are covered under the Act by the Regional Provident fund Commissioner, Delhi;

(c) if so, the details of such establishments covered under the Act in Delhi during

the last three years; year-wise; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for such lapses and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The Employees Provident Funds & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 does not specify the period for which 20 or more persons should have been employed for the purpose of coverage of an establishment. The coverage of an establishment under the Act is, therefore, determined on the basis of number of persons employed in the regular business of the establishment on any day in the preceding year.

(b) to (d). The required information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Revival of RBHM Jute Mills, Katihar

9073. SHRI YUVRAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sanctioned a project for revival and rehabilitation of RBHM Jute Mills, Katihar, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as a result of the above scheme number of workers were to be reduced, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to sanction financial aid for modernisation of the mill and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by

Government to ensure that all the workers rendered surplus by the revival and rehabilitation scheme are taken back in the mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d). A project for revival and rehabilitation of RBHM Jute Mills at an outlay of Rs. 3.75 crore was sanctioned out of which contribution of Bihar Government was Rs. 1.50 crore and that of Central Government was Rs. 2.25 crore. No other scheme for modernisation is presently under consideration.

After the completion of above scheme the unit will require lesser labour force. The workers liable to be rendered surplus are being paid off full terminal benefits. This scheme was decided after prolonged negotiations with concerned plant level Trade Unions keeping in view the long term viability of the unit.

[English]

Reservation Benefits to SCs/STs Converted to Neo-Buddhism in Maharashtra

9074. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint that reservation benefits meant for SCs/STs in Central services, Central Welfare measures, Central Financial Assistance in the State of Maharashtra, are being substantially utilised/cornered by neo-Buddhists;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the complaints; and

(c) the steps Government propose to protect the legitimate reservation rights of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the

State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No such complaints have been received.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Ban Orders of Drug Controllers

9075. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the strategies adopted by the multinationals to sidetrack and circumvent the ban orders of the Drug Controller and the removal of some of the most needed thirteen drugs from price control has increased prices to the needy consumers; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures taken by Government to avoid this situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Government have banned 27 categories of drugs including fixed dose combinations. There is no question of price increase once the drugs are banned.

As per information received from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals, in the absence of names of 13 drugs referred to in the Question, it is not possible to comment on their removal from the price control. A Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Chemicals & Petrochemicals, has been constituted to look into the question of inclusion/exclusion of drugs from price control. All representations regarding anomalies/discropancies in the list of price control drugs can be addressed to the Standing Committee.