

bricks Industries and different code numbers were issued to the different schools working under one management like D.A.V. Education Society and other to show more number of coverages in Delhi Regional Office EPF Organisation during the last 18 months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the establishments employing less than 20 workers were forcibly and illegally brought under the purview of E.P.F. Act by manipulations;

(c) if so, what action Government propose it take against the erring officials; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) According to available information, one duplicate code number was issued by mistake, to one establishment engaged in the brick industry. Some schools have also been allotted separate code number, as they were maintaining separate books of accounts. No separate code number has, however, been allotted to the schools working under the D.A.V. Education Society.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Sindhi Language

10027. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being proposed to be taken to further the cause of Sindhi Language in accordance with Article 350-A and 350-B of the Constitution of India; and

(b) the total Sindhi speaking population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND

WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) In accordance with Article 350 A of the Constitution, State Governments and local authorities within the State are to endeavour to provide adequate facilities to children belonging to linguistic minority groups for instruction in their mother-tongue at the primary stage of education.

No occasion has so far arisen for issue instructions/ direction in this regard to any State.

The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities investigates all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

The Reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities are laid before the Parliament, and sent to the State Governments as provided for in the Constitution.

(b) The number of people speaking Sindhi in the country, according to the 1981 Census is 1,946,278. These figures are based on the data collected during the Census Enumeration on the language mainly spoken in the household, through the household schedule. These figures, however, include houseless households, but exclude institutional households. The figures also exclude Assam, as no Census was taken there, due to the disturbed conditions prevailing at the time of Census.

Alleged Irregularities in Purchase of Gunny Bags

10028. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain office bearers of NCCF Employees Union were allegedly involved in irregularities in purchase of Gunny Bags at Morena, Madhya Pradesh;