

Seniority in EPF Organisation

4360. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India, while deciding the question of determining the seniority in respect of employees in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has decided the date of appointment in the Organisation as the date of seniority;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that frequent Orders issued by the Central Office in finalising the seniority cases has raised controversies among the Regional Offices and

(c) if so, whether Government would issue uniform instructions to remove the confusion created by orders/instructions of the Central Office, EPF Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) No, Sir. The Supreme Court has, however, while dismissing a Special Petition filed by the EPF Organisation in a case relating to seniority of UDCs, held that in the absence of any other rule seniority of the officials is to be determined with reference to the actual date of appointment in the grade.

(b) No, Sir. All the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have already been instructed to prepare the seniority list in the grade of UDCs (where not already finalised) as per direction of Supreme Court.

(c) The seniority rules of the employees of the organisation (including UDC) have been finalised and notified recently.

Guidelines for distribution of essential commodities

4361. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have issued any guidelines or laid down norms for the distribution of essential commodities to the Fair Price Shops;

(b) whether upliftments of essential commodities is in accordance with these guidelines, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c). While allocation of PDS commodities is made by the Central Government to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, norms regarding distribution of these commodities to the fair price shops, including those relating to the scale of distribution and other details, are decided upon by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, in the general guidelines sent to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for strengthening the Public Distribution System (PDS), they have been advised on various aspects like the need for universal coverage of the population by ration cards, opening of new fair price shops, specially in un-served and under-served areas, introduction of mobile shops in remote and inaccessible areas, etc.

Commissioner for SC/ST

4362. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for SCs/STs has not been vested with powers to ensure implementation of its recommendations by the concerned ministries/departments;

(b) if so, the steps proposed for enforcement of recommendations of the Commissioner in order to protect the interests of SCs/STs; and