

Development Wing is not an earning wing, because Government invest money on research and development exclusively with a view to having better implementation in future so that our dependence on Catalyst etc. could be reduced. Therefore, I am sorry to say that I am not able to get your point fully as to how did you reach a conclusion that P.D.I.L. was suffering a loss.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : The hon. Minister has stated that they are not belittling the importance of P.D.I.L. P.D.I.L. had an important role in Sindri and other projects that were set up later, but ever since this multi-national company Snam Progetti came to the scene, its importance is being denigrated. Now the Government is of the view that in accordance with the requirements of the respective clients a part of P.D.I.L. has been shifted to Baroda and Delhi. The reason behind shifting a part of P.D.I.L. is not that the plant would stop working if shifted to Baroda and Delhi, but that the clients are of the view that the roads in Sindri are not good, that there is no good accommodation in Sindri, that there is no S.T.D. telephone line in Sindri, that there is no rail-head there ; whereas the fact is that all these facilities are already available in Sindri. Therefore, they have made a demand that they shall not go there. If Government wants its co-operation and wants the work to be done, they will have shift to a place of their choice and as per their wishes. Whereas, according to the terms of the agreement, P.D.I.L. is not a petty contractor of the Snam Progetti. However, to accord them to a status of co-contractor. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question quickly, what are you doing ?

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Therefore, I would like to know whether Government propose to take any action to get PDIL, the only company of its nature in the country, released from the clutches of a multi-national company like Snam Progetti and to give it the a status of a

co-contractor the reason being that it is stumbling block for Snam Progetti. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not give the reasons.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I would like to inform the hon. Member that Snam Progetti provides technology for Thal, Hazira and Guna projects whereas PDIL provides us with engineering work. Should I read out if you are interested—PDIL has at present 23 works of which 18 are in Sindri ; only 5 are outside Sindri and that too because it is absolutely necessary that they be implemented there and that it has facilitated the implementation and has not resulted in loss. So far as the question of road, telephone etc. is concerned, my department is not concerned with that.

[*English*]

**EPF Amount Outstanding against
Tea Garden Owners**

*474. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea garden owners are not depositing the employers and employees contribution to Employees Provident Fund ;

(b) if so, the total amount of money outstanding against the tea garden owners in Tripura as on date towards provident fund contribution and the names of the gardens ; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far against owners of the gardens who have failed to deposit the provident fund contribution ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA) :** (a) According to available information as on 31.3.85, 92 tea plantations/factories had defaulted in payment of provident fund dues.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the establishment</i>	<i>Amount on arrears (in rupees)</i>	<i>Action taken for realisation of the outstanding amount</i>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
1.	M/s Kalyanpur Tea Estate	7,001.40	Revenue Recovery Certificates have been issued, for realisation of the outstanding amount.	
2.	„ Binodini Tea Estate	36,737.97		
3.	„ Lookudua Tea Estate	9,965.85		
4.	„ Harendra Nagar Tea Estate	28,368.70		
5.	„ Halaicherra Tea Estate	57,385.97	Revenue Recovery Certificates have been issued for realisation of the outstanding amount. Prosecution cases have also been launched.	
6.	„ Kanachira Tea Estate	1,03,244.20		
7.	„ Murticherra Tea Estate	72,557.78		
8.	„ Sona Mukhi Tea Estate	11,664.70	Revenue Recovery Certificates have been issued for realisation of the outstanding amount.	
9.	„ Rangrung Tea Estate	61,252.78		
10.	„ Gopal Nagar Tea Estate	31,332.65		
11.	„ Debastha Tea Estate	3,340.80		
12.	„ Sarala Tea Estate	2,045.80		
13.	„ Haridaspur Tea Estate	15,993.60		
14.	„ Thufanilinga Tea Estate	1,067.50		
15.	„ Bramhakunda Tea Estate	5,918.40		
16.	„ Hiracherra Tea Estate	1,86,902.40		Revenue recovery certificates for realisation of the outstanding amount is being issued. Action is also being taken to file prosecution cases.
17.	„ Darangtila Tea Estate	22,440.02		
18.	„ Krishnapur Tea Estate	26,142.50		
19.	„ Chuhowai Tea Estate	49,454.00		
20.	„ Mohanpur Tea Estate	1,68,924.80		
21.	„ Fatikcherra Tea Estate	4,83,600.00		
Total :		13,84,341.82		

SHRI AJAY BISWAS : I have gone through the statement. Out of 92 tea plantations which had defaulted in payment of provident fund dues, 21 were in Tripura. The Office of the Provident Fund Commissioner is located in the capital of Meghalaya i.e. Shillong. This Office is not taking stringent measures against the defaulting tea owners. It is not possible for the tea workers to go to Shillong from Tripura to settle their claims. Even they are getting the provident fund statements. So, the Shillong Office is responsible for the suffering of the tea workers of Tripura. In the statement it has been stated that revenue recovery certificates have been issued. When were they issued ?

Will the Minister cite even a single case where the prosecutions have been launched ? So, it is clear that the Office of the Commissioner of Provident Fund is in league with the owners. That is why, the owners are depriving the workers of their due share. When were the revenue recovery certificates issued against the owners ? Please mention the month also. Has Government any proposal to give more powers to the Agartala Office to settle claims of the workers so that they do not suffer any more ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The headquarters of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, for North-eastern region is

not located at Shillong but at Gauhati. We have a sub-regional office at Agartala. At the moment, we think it has adequate powers to deal with the situation. As far as the revenue recovery is concerned, actually these things are done through the State Revenue authorities. In fact, we have impressed upon the State Government the need to expedite these things. It is only when there is further need to take action against a defaulter, we proceed to prosecute him. Out of 21 defaulters in Agartala, revenue recovery slips have been issued against eighteen by the State authorities, and against three firms prosecution has been launched.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Sir, I think the Minister is from the North-Eastern region. So, at least he should know the position of the North-Eastern region. All the small States there are suffering and he is misleading the House. He has said that the office which is situated at Agartala has enough powers, but when the workers approach that office, they are telling that they do not have powers. They are not even giving any information to the workers. All the powers are vested in the Regional Office and the Minister is telling here that the Agartala office has enough powers. So, it is nothing but misleading the House. Therefore, I shall further request the Minister that since he is from the North-Eastern region, he should set up the offices not only at Agartala but at the headquarters of all the States in the North-Eastern region, and should give enough powers to deal with the problems. Secondly, I would like to know whether the present Act is not enough to deal with the problems, because already Rs. 40 crores are due from the owners, and whether the Government has any proposal to amend the present Act and bring forward a comprehensive Act so that the problems can be solved.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have already answered this question. The Agartala office has the power to settle the claims of the people who have insured themselves and the Guwahati Regional Office is also there. At the moment, we think the Guwahati office and the Agartala office can deal with the situation and if in future there is any further problem or there is a need for expansion, we shall certainly look into it.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Sir, in this connection, I want to draw the attention

of the Minister that there are 775 tea estates in Assam and the condition of the tea garden workers is worse than that of the other workers in the country. The P.F. contribution is being held up by all the industries and the owners. Instead of depositing the money, they have diverted it to their own business. The Government and the Provident Fund Department have failed to realise the money. What action has been taken by the Government we do not know, but it seems that no action has been taken. The workers are deprived of their legitimate right. They are not paid their Provident Fund dues even after three, four or five years of their retirement. So, I would like to have a clarification from the Government.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, unfortunately, Assam tea gardens do not come under the purview of our Act. They are in the exempted category and they have their own provident fund scheme. We do not operate in Assam tea gardens.

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Assam Tea Corporation which has as many as nineteen or twenty tea gardens in Assam, has failed for years together to deposit their contribution of the provident fund, and if so, what is the total amount of money outstanding against the tea gardens owners till today.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I have already answered this question. We do not operate in Assam. It does not fall under our purview.

Guidelines for Telecast of Sponsored Programmes

*475. **SHRI SUNIL DUTT :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down in regard to telecast of sponsored programmes by Doordarshan centres ;

(b) whether any committees are functioning at the Headquarters and at the regional centres of Doordarshan to examine the proposals received for sponsored programmes and make a selection therefrom ; and

(c) whether any ratio has been fixed in relation to time between the sponsored pro-