

there because the highway route cannot be changed. Now the State Government have assured that all arrangements will be made by the end of November. Thereafter, the team was sent again. A meeting was also held in my office on 12th October. The last meeting was held on 27th October. If State Government completes all the arrangements by the end of November, the Government will start Dornier service from 5th December. Now the State Government have informed that they will complete the work by 5th December. If all these works are completed by 5th December, the air service will start operating from 10th December.

**SHRI MANKURAM SODI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this work has not been done and as a result, the people of Bastar are facing inconvenience in communications which is an obstacle in its progress. In view of Government's decision to link Jagdalpur and Bilaspur, will it start air service first in Bilaspur and later in Jagdalpur or simultaneously at both the places? Will the Government take a decision to start the service first at Jagdalpur?

**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :** We will start the air service first in Jagdalpur because it is in the tribal area. We wish to introduce the service at the earliest. This will give me much pleasure.

**SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI :** Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the fact that landing facility has already been provided in Bilaspur, and also in view of Government's proposal to start air service from Delhi to Bhopal, Bhopal to Bilaspur and Bilaspur to Jagdalpur, will the Government start the service in Bilaspur because Bilaspur is also a tribal area, and the landing facility in Jagdalpur is not yet ready?

Secondly, the Government wants to extend air service from Delhi to Bhopal and Bilaspur. Will it be extended upto Khajuraho so that Khajuraho could be connected by air service with Bhopal, the State Capital, and Chhatisgarh also. This will provide direct facility to tourists wishing to reach Khajuraho.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You give this suggestion in writing.

**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :** Sir, I shall look into this suggestion.

**SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the hon. Minister, Vayudoot Service will be extended to all those places in the states where these arrangements have been made. If so, will the hon. Minister introduce Vayudoot service for places like Patna-Dhanbad-Jamshedpur.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You submit the suggestion in writing.

**SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :** Will the Vayudoot Service be extended to district Jhunjhunu and its adjoining district Sikar, because all facilities for operating Vayudoot Service are available there?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please send a written suggestion.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** Sir, my question is very important.

**MR. SPEAKER :** We shall take up your question later.

[English]

Hospital for Beedi Workers in Farrukhabad District (U.P.)

\*127. **SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request for construction of a hospital for Beedi workers at Gursahaiganj in Farrukhabad District;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) if no request has been received, whether Union Government propose suo moto to establish a hospital for these beedi workers in view of their long outstanding hardships on account of lack of basic medical facilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under examination,

(c) and (d) Do not arise,

**SHRI KHURSID ALAM KHAN :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister—I do not know whether he has the full information—whether this proposal has been under consideration for the last three years or not? Is it not a fact that the first indication was given that there would be a 50 bed hospital, after that it was said that it would be a 30-bed hospital and finally it was said that it would be only a 10-bed hospital. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it takes three years to decide about a 10 bed hospital to be provided for this area from where crores of rupees of excise duty is collected every year.

**SHRI A. K. PANJA :** Sir, the first proposal was received in the year 1984, and then a proposal from the hon. Member was received in 1985. At that time the proposal was for 50 beds. Then, after considering the entire policy, it appears that the Government decided to expand more and more dispensaries because the dispensaries are catering to the workers in a better way, and the workers are being issued identity cards also. On 27th of May the proposal crystallised. It has been approved as a ten-bedded hospital—as has also been allowed and approved by the Health Department. Now it appears that the preliminary estimate is ready. The formal approval was given on the 3rd of September 1987. After it is sent to the Finance and the Finance approves it, then it will be sent to CPWD for construction.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :** Sir, whether it is sent to Finance or not, the fact is that the beedi workers are without any medical facilities there and they are suffering on this account. So, I would like to know whether the Government is really serious to do anything for them. Or they must say that it is not possible for the Government to do anything for beedi workers and they will continue to collect crores of rupees as excise revenue from them.

**SHRI A. K. PANJA :** Sir, the Government is very serious over the matter. In fact, during the last three years, there has been lot of expansion of dispensaries and also a 50-bedded hospital is now under construction. The proposal for

another one has gone for approval whether it is to be constructed or not.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that the workers engaged in beedi making are suffering from the occupational hazard of T.B. Tuberculosis is permanently there among the beedi workers. Lakhs of workers are affected by this but no medical care is provided to them. This has especially been witnessed in the areas of Mangalore and in the nearby border district of Kerala where lakhs of workers are there. So, I would like to know whether the Government has got any proposal to see that T.B. sanatorium or some such things are there where the workers can be kept.

**SHRI A. K. PANJA :** Sir, it is a commonly prevalent idea that one of the hazards in the occupation of the beedi workers is that they get infected with tuberculosis. I have consulted the experts and they say it is not so. The tuberculosis disease is not an occupational hazard so far as beedi workers are concerned. They get affected like others whose purchasing power being low, the proper intake is not there and who, therefore, suffer from various malnutritions. For the beedi workers, certain beds have been reserved in sanatoriums so that their admission is expeditious. Secondly, the modern medical advice, as you know, is that if it is tuberculosis, then home treatment with dispensary facilities is more beneficial for them.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Sir, the medical facilities for the beedi workers, as well as housing construction, are supposed to be financed out of a special Fund which is collected by imposing a cess on the beedi owners. We had passed that Act here—the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to how much money has accumulated up-till now in this Fund which is coming out of this cess on the beedi owners, and how much of that money has actually been spent for construction of hospitals or dispensaries or houses for the beedi workers.

**SHRI A. K. PANJA :** Sir, so far as the Cess is concerned, I have got the figures

for the years 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1986-87. So far as 1986-87 is concerned—I need not go into other years—the opening balance was Rs. 7,61,79,218. Out of that, the receipts were Rs. 4,16,98,304, payments were Rs. 3,24,00,000 and the closing balance was Rs. 8,54,00,000. In the year 1987, we have started with that opening balance. So far as education is concerned, marked improvement has been noticed because more income is there. In 1984-85, the total amount spent in lakhs was Rs. 51.61 in 1985-86, it was Rs. 63.95;

For the year 1986-87, it was Rs. 72.01 crores and for 1987-88 it will be Rs. 139.10 crores. The hon. Member has asked about the health. For 1984-85, it was Rs. 121.42 crores and this has gone to Rs. 359.80 crores in 1987-88. For housing purposes, from Rs. 0.40 crores in 1984-85, it has gone up to Rs. 125.65 crores in 1986-87.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have asked how much money has been spent.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : That is what I am saying.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I did not ask that. You may spend so many crores. Even then there may be no houses or no dispensaries.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I am saying that these figures are all about the payments. We have got the figures about the payments of 1986-87.

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to his question. What does he want ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I wanted to know whether out of this fund, the expenditure on houses for beedi workers, on the construction of dispensaries, hospitals and schools, is available with him and whether he can tell us how many have been constructed out of this fund.

SHRI A. K. PANJA : I do not have the figure for how many have been constructed. That figure is not with me. But how much has been spent for construction, I have got that information.

#### Recovery of E.P.F. Arrears

\*128. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the energy crisis and sickness in jute and textile mills are mainly responsible for pushing up the arrears of Provident Fund contributions;

(b) the amount of contributions during 1985-86 as compared to 1986-87;

(c) the regions where the arrears registered the maximum increase; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) :

(a) to (d) A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) While the energy crisis might have contributed to some extent towards industrial sickness, Industrial sickness is definitely one of the causes for increase in the E.P.F. arrears.

(b) The amount of contributions realised is as given below :

	Exempted Establish- ments	Unexempted Establish- ments
	(Rupees in Crores)	
1985-86	860.21	687.96
1986-87	1023.68	770.83

(c) The maximum increase in arrears was reported from the following regions :

(i) *Unexempted Establishments*

Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

(ii) *Exempted Establishments*

West Bengal and Bihar.

(d) The E.P.F. Organisation is at present taking the following steps, for recovery of arrears :

(i) Issue of Revenue Recovery Certificates under Section 8 of the E.P.F. Act;

(ii) Filing of prosecutions case against defaulters under Section 14 of the E.P.F. Act;