

Accumulation of Arrears of E.P.F.

*247. SHRI H.N. NANJE
GOWDA :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of P.F. arrears have crossed all previous records and limits during the last two years;

(b) if so, who is responsible for the same; and

(c) what action is proposed against the Central Provident Fund Commissioner and then Chairman of the Board of Trustees for accumulation of such huge arrears during their tenure ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY) : (a) and (b). It is a fact that a large amount is in arrears on account of contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund, Family Pension Fund and the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Fund, administrative charges and other dues from certain employers. These arrears have accumulated mainly due to sickness of the industrial units, closure of establishment liquidation of companies, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

News Item 'Sobhraj Rules Tihar Jail'

*253. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report in the 'Indian Express' (Delhi Edition) of 8th July, 1981 under the caption 'Sobharaj rules Tihar Jail'

revealing that Charles Sobhraj, the international Criminal lodged in Tihar Central Jail has created a reign of terror in the jail by bullying prisoners and blackmailing the Jail Superintendent and his deputy;

(b) whether the information revealed in this news report is correct; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to deal with this situation in the Tihar jail ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The attention of Government has been drawn to the news report referred to. Some other complaints have also been received by Government pertaining to the Tihar Jail. These are being looked into.

Directives to States for Environmental Control

*254. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether Government have given directives to States to take effective measures for Environmental control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by State Governments in this direction ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b). In April 1980 Prime Minister addressed the Chief Ministers of all States giving various suggestions relating to environmental control and preservation of our environment.

The Ministry of Works and Housing have issued instructions to all State industries departments to

obtain comments and no objection certificates from the respective boards before new industries are commissioned.

(c) Most of the states have constituted state Environmental Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister(s) to advise their governments on environmental matters. State Governments are also taking measures to control felling of trees, create energy plantations and extend social forestry. The State governments of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have constituted Department of Environment.

State Governments are implementing the wildlife (Protection) Act. About 220 National Parks and Sanctuaries have been set up to safeguard the natural heritage of flora and fauna. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 places restrictions on conversion of forests for non-forest purposes. All the State governments except Tamil Nadu, Orissa and the five North-East hill states have set up boards for prevention and control of water pollution of implementing the provisions of the Water Act 1974. All new industries have to obtain no objection certificates at the stage of licencing and consent order for discharge of effluents before commissioning of industries from the state board. These boards have been given responsibility for implementing the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 also.

Programme for Regional Development of Industries in Sixth Plan

*255. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has any programmes for regional development of Industries in the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has been complaining about inadequate investments by the Central Government in its Industries in Kerala; and

(c) what is the decision of Government of India on those complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Yes, Sir; programmes for progressive reduction of regional inequalities in the pace of industrial development form part of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c). In the Meeting of the National Development Council in August, 1980 and in the Industries Ministers' Conference held in February, 1981 Chief Minister and Minister of Industry Kerala respectively had spoken about inadequate investment in Kerala under the Central public sector.

Between March 1972 to March 1980 the value of gross block in Central public sector in Kerala has increased from Rs. 137.10 crores to Rs. 422.84 crores. In addition, the Sixth Plan proposes Central public sector investment on Industrial and mineral projects in Kerala to the extent of Rs. 255.95 crores.

Guidelines for Setting up New Mini Cement Plants

*256. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY :

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued for setting up new mini cement plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and