

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : May I know by what date the findings will be completed and action taken ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The findings of the committee are actually before me as Minister at the moment. I hope within a month, I will be able to finalise the decision of Government in that matter.

Handing over of mineral based industries in Bihar to Bihar Government

*996 : **SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government has urged upon the Central Government to hand over mineral-based industries to the Government of Bihar ; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि चूक बिहार गवर्नमेंट की वित्तीय स्थिति खराब है, इसलिए वह चाहती है कि बिहार में जो बहुत सी मिनरल इंडस्ट्रीज केन्द्रीय सरकार के हाथ में हैं, उनको बिहार सरकार ले ले, ताकि उन इंडस्ट्रीज का फायदा उसको मिले और वह अपना काम चला सके और क्या इस बारे में बिहार सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध किया है ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Regarding the financial situation of Bihar, it would be better if he asks the Bihar Government himself. Regarding the question whether the mines should be handed over to Bihar Government, we have ourselves enquired from them and they have informed us that no proposal has been sent to us asking us to hand over the mines to them.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA : The question is not about mines but about the mineral-based industries.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The reply is exactly in relation to mineral-based industries. The question which

was asked of the Bihar Government is in relation to mineral-based industries and the telegram I have received from Bihar Government says :

"No proposal has been sent to the Central Government to hand over the mineral-based industries to the Bihar Government. (b) and (c) Do not arise."

Arrears of Employees Provident Fund

*982. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE**

on behalf of

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund arrears have increased to the maximum extent and no serious efforts have been made to recover the same ;

(b) if so, the reasons of accumulation and the amount of arrears as on the 31st March, 1972 ; and

(c) whether Government under whose direct control the E. P. F. Organisation is functioning is seriously thinking of forming a Recovery Cell with adequate staff in the Central Office of the organisation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the available information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No. There is no such proposal at present under consideration. However, the Government have under consideration proposals to make the penalties in the Act more stringent and to delegate enhanced powers to the Regional Commissioners.

Statement

The Provident Fund Authorities have reported that the information regarding arrears of provident fund contributions due from the employers as at the end of March, 1972 is not readily available. However, the total arrears of Provident fund contributions in respect of unexempted establishments stood at about Rs. 1861 lakhs at the end of December, 1971. The increase in arrears is attributable largely to absence of sufficiently deterrent penalties in the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952