

लिए सौंप दिये जाने चाहिए ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) इस देश में औद्योगिक शान्ति कायम रखने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है, ताकि देश में उत्पादन सम्बन्धी प्रयत्नों की गति धीमी न पड़े ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार का विचार ऐसे राज्यों से, जहाँ पुलिस 'बन्द' तथा श्रमिकों की अन्य हिंसक गतिविधियों को चुपचाप देखती रही, यह अनुरोध करने का है कि कार्मिक संघों को केवल कानूनी सीमा के अन्दर ही कार्य करने की अनुमति दी जाये ?

श्रम, रोजगार तथा पुनर्वास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भागवत झा बाजाव) : (क) इस सम्बन्ध में श्री आबिद अली ने एक सुझाव अपने अध्यक्षीय भाषण में दिया था ।

(ख) यह सुझाव औद्योगिक शान्ति संकल्प के अनुरूप है, जोकि अभी भी प्रवर्तन में है ।

(ग) सरकार सदा ही नियोजकों और कर्मचारियों से अपने विवादों का वैधानिक साधनों से निपटारा करने और कामबन्दी दूर करने का आग्रह करती रही है । जब आवश्यकता होती है, तब श्रम कानूनों के उपबन्धों को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए कार्यवाही की जाती है । अनुशासन संहिता तथा औद्योगिक शान्ति संकल्प के उल्लंघन भी आवश्यक सुधार करने के लिए सम्बन्धित पक्षों के ध्यान में लाये जाते हैं ।

(घ) पुलिस को कार्यवाही का मामला वास्तव में राज्य के क्षेत्राधिकार में आता है । परन्तु स्थायी श्रम समिति ने, जिसने इस विषय पर मई, 1967 में विचार किया, औद्योगिक विवादों को निपटाने के लिए बल-प्रयोग तथा

डराने घमकाने के तरीकों का अनुमोदन नहीं किया । राज्य सरकारों को तदनुसार परामर्श दिया गया है ।

Seed Developing Centres in the Country

*409. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of seed developing centres in the country under Governmental agencies and their location ; and

(b) the varieties produced in each centre and whether the production is sufficient to meet the entire demand in the country for improved seeds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) : The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Agreement between Novosti and P.I.B. for circulation of Publicity Material

*410. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agreement between NOVOSTI and P.I.B. entered into in 1967 is still working ;

(b) if so, the details of publicity materials and articles circulated by P.I.B. on behalf of NOVOSTI and similarly, by NOVOSTI on behalf of P.I.B. with effect from the 1st January, 1968 up to now ;

(c) the advantages derived by the Government of India by entering into such an agreement ;

(d) whether it is a fact that in spite of this agreement, Indian publicity materials are released for publication in U.S.S.R only after the same are cleared for publication by Soviet Intelligence irrespective of such materials having been supplied by P.I.B. to NOVOSTI ; and

(e) whether any such corresponding restriction also applies in case of materials supplied by NOVOSTI to P.I.B. or whether all materials received by P.I.B. are made available for public reading without censor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ; AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No publicity material or articles are circulated by P.I.B. on behalf of NOVOSTI. Whatever material is received from NOVOSTI is kept as reference material in the library along with similar information material received from other countries.

So far as NOVOSTI is concerned, P.I.B. has supplied to the Agency over 125 features and articles, many of them illustrated, since January, 1968. This material, according to NOVOSTI, is regularly included in the 'International Information Bulletin' circulated by NOVOSTI to about 900 Soviet newspapers and periodicals. Since NOVOSTI translates, duplicates and distributes PIB material, this arrangement augments efforts of our Embassy to circulate widely publicity material pertaining to India.

(d) We have no such information.

(e) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Provident Fund Money by Colliery Owners

*411. **SHRI K. M. Koushik :** Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the colliery proprietors do not deposit the amount of the Provident Fund within the stipulated period and use the amount so collected from the labourers for purposes of their own ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the interest accruing on the amount so used by them is far more than the amount of fine which they are required to pay in case their failure to pay entails in a prosecution ; and

(c) in view of the above, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c). The administration of the Coal Mines Provident Fund is the concern of the Board of Trustees, an autonomous Organisation set up under the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 and not the concern of Government of India. The Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation has reported that some employers default in payment of Provident Fund dues of the workers and the interest accruing on the amounts in default in some cases is more than the fine imposed on the employers concerned in the event of prosecution. Provident Fund dues are recoverable as arrears of land revenue. As regards prosecution, before its amendment in 1955, the Act provided for punishment, in the case of default, with imprisonment for a term up to 6 months or with fine extending to one thousand rupees or with both. The Act was amended in 1955 to provide further that if any person is again guilty of such offence within a period of 2 years, he would be punishable with imprisonment for a term up to one year or with fine extending to two thousand rupees or with both. Provision was also made for levy of damages not exceeding 25% of the amount of arrears in case of delayed payment of Provident Fund dues. The question of making penal provisions more deterrent is under consideration.

The Board of Trustees have also taken the following steps in this connection :

- (i) It has been decided to initiate prosecution under 406 of I. P. C. against defaulting employers, wherever necessary.
- (ii) Special Certificate Officers have been appointed for dealing with the certificate cases of the Fund.
- (iii) A Committee has been set up to take up such cases with the defaulting employers in order to ensure speedy recovery of the dues.