

a Chartered Accountant for each preceding instalment.

(b) No, Sir.

Action against Defaulters of Employees Provident Fund

*1643. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI GADILINGANA
GOWD :

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

(a) what decision has been taken by Government for stricter action, including imprisonment, against employers who are defaulters of Employees Provident Fund ;

(b) the figures available with Government regarding cases of default in regard to Employees' Provident Fund during 1968 and 1969 ; and

(c) whether any amendment in the relevant law is anticipated, if so, the nature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : (a) and (c). It is proposed to amend the Employee's Provident Funds Act, 1952, to provide for stringent penalties against employers of defaulting establishments. Various proposals in this behalf are under examination.

(b) The number of prosecutions and recovery cases instituted against the employers of unexempted defaulting establishments during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 as reported by the Provident Fund Authorities, is given below :—

Year	No. of prosecution case launched	No. of recovery cases instituted
1967-68	5,276	4,366
1968-69	7,262	6,063

Production of Sugarcane

*1644. SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that this year there is a record production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and other sugar growing States ;

(b) if so, the production of sugarcane in each State this year ;

(c) whether it is fact that there is an apprehension in the minds of the growers that the sugar factories will not be able to crush the entire stock this season ; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to see that entire sugarcane is crushed by the sugar factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The final estimate of production of sugarcane during 1969-70 is not yet available. However, according to the All India Second Estimate of Sugarcane for 1969-70, the area under sugarcane during 1969-70 is higher by 11.5 percent as compared to the corresponding estimate for 1968-69. The production of sugarcane is also, therefore, likely to be substantially higher. The estimated production in 1968-69 was 1175.72 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d). The larger availability of sugarcane this year has created some misapprehensions with regard to the ability of factories to crush all available cane. The State Governments have been asked to ensure that sugar factories close down after crushing all available sugarcane in their factory areas. Information received from the State Governments shows that almost all sugar factories which have closed down, did so after crushing all contracted or available cane in their factory areas and those working will also be able to do likewise.