

Pending Cases of P.F. in Rajasthan

581. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases/claims of the workers regarding payment of provident fund in the office of Regional Commissioner, Rajasthan are pending;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to clear all pending cases within a reasonable time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). According to the information received from the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Rajasthan, 403 claims were pending on the 31st May, 1980. Of these, 54 claims have since been settled and the remaining 349 claims are in the process of settlement. The delay in settlement is attributed by the R.P.F.C., largely to incomplete documentation of the claims.

(c) The E. P. F. Organisation has been advised to settle all pending claims expeditiously.

Wagons for movement of Soap Stone

582. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of wagons at Udaipur, the movement of soap stone has suffered badly; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to improve the availability of wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise. During April & May, 1980, a total of 1,119 wagons of soap stone were loaded from Udaipur area as against 1,021 wagons loaded during the corresponding period of last year. During the same period demands of 207 wagons were forfeited or withdrawn by the senders.

Workers' Participation in Mines

583. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme for boosting workers' participation in industrial safety, particularly in the mines;

(b) whether this scheme will be given statutory support; and

(c) whether Sections 18 and 22 of the Mines Act providing sufficient ground for workers' association would be further strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) In pursuance of the recommendations of the First Conference on Safety in Mines held in 1958, the Mining Industry was advised:—

(i) to set up Pit Safety Committees comprising of representatives of the managements and workers at all mines employing more than 100 persons for promoting safety in mines; and

(ii) to provide for inspection of mines to be carried out by a technical person on behalf of the workers employed in the mine.

(b) and (c). Section 18 relates to the duties and responsibilities of owners, agents and managers and Section 22 relates to powers of inspectors. It is proposed to give statutory support, in the Rules under the Mines Act, for inspection of mines to be carried out on behalf of the persons employed therein by a technical expert.