

the notification issued under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, extending its coverage to bidi manufacture has been stayed by the Supreme Court. Steps are being taken to get the stay vacated. However, some of the employers are complying with the Act.

Assistance to Iran in setting up of Industries

565. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Iran has sought India's help in setting up mini cement plants, foundries, castings and forging, ceramics and electronic units in that country;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of his Ministry;

(c) whether his Ministry is going to provide necessary help for the industrial development of Iran; and

(d) the details about the implementation of such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (d). During the recent visit of Minister of Housing and Rural Development of Iran, the Iranian delegation had broadly indicated its interest in India's technology in the field of mini cement plants, foundries, castings and forgings, ceramics, electronics and mining machinery. The details of specific assistance required from India are, however, yet to be received from the concerned Iranian authorities.

Crimes against women

566. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a special cell to

investigate the cases in connection with the crimes against women;

(b) if so, when such a cell is going to be set up;

(c) whether guidelines have been sent to various States to set up similar special cells on crimes against women; and

(d) the details about the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Decentralization of provident fund scheme

567. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal for the decentralization of the Provident Fund Scheme on an experimental basis in the establishment, employing more than 500 people;

(b) whether it is a fact that such decentralization scheme may lead to the retrenchment of staff in those organisations;

(c) the basis on which the above decentralization scheme is going to be implemented; and

(d) when the above proposal is going to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) to (c). On the basis of the recommendations made by the Employees Provident Fund Review Committee (Ramanujam Committee) it has been decided that establishments employing 500 or more may be given the option to maintain their own accounts and to make payments under the Employees Provident