

**Arrears of Employees Provident Fund contributions with Employers**

601. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the mounting arrears of Employees Provident Fund contributions not being paid by the defaulting employers ; and

(b) the number of cases pending under the E. P. F. Act in Bihar at present and in other States and the reasons why they are not being disposed of quickly ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees, appointed under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :

(a) The following steps are taken against the defaulting un-exempted establishments which default in the payment of provident fund dues :—

- (i) Prosecution is launched under section 14 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952.
- (ii) Revenue recovery proceedings are initiated under section 8 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952.
- (iii) In suitable cases, complaints are filed with the Police/Courts under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code.
- (iv) Penal damages are levied under section 14 B of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952.

(v) The default is brought to the notice of the Employers' and the Workers' Organisations including the Trade Unions.

(vi) In some cases, the establishments are afforded a chance to pay the dues in suitable instalments subject to production of adequate guarantee, surety etc.

(vii) In the case of Textile Mills which have gone into liquidation, reconstruction schemes drawn up by them (to which the State Governments usually are party) are examined on merits.

(b) As on 31-12-1970, there were 429 recovery cases and 2210 prosecution cases pending in Bihar State, as against 14,841 recovery cases and 21,262 prosecution cases pending in other States. Prosecution cases are pending as adjournments are frequently sought by the employers and generally allowed by the Magistrates.

**Establishment of Grape Research Station at Hyderabad**

602. SHRI GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether grapes have become cheaper than brinjals and tomatoes in Hyderabad ;

(b) whether Hyderabad produces more than rupees 10 crores worth of grapes every year and there is a great difficulty of marketing the grapes ;

(c) whether Government propose to arrange for export of grapes ; and

(d) whether Government propose to establish a grape research station at Hyderabad on the lines of Bangalore and Delhi to solve the problems of grape growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a). No, Sir.