

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

**Higher Contribution to Employees Provident Fund**

2539. **SHRI G. C. DIXIT:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of private sector industries are contributing 10 per cent or even more of the employees' salary in the employees Provident Fund with or without the approval of the Employees Provident Fund authorities; and

(b) if so, the number of such Companies who contribute more than the statutory limits towards their Employees' Provident Fund under the jurisdiction of the different Regional Provident Fund Commissioners during the last three years, year-wise and region-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) and (b). The Provident Fund authorities have reported that the information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

**Recommendation made by Board of Trustees to Amend E. P. F. Act and Pension Act**

2540. **SHRI JAGDISH CHANDRA DIXIT:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to amend further the Employees' Provident Fund and Pension Act, 1952, based on the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, made in their recent meeting;

(b) if so, the time by which the amending legislation is expected to be introduced;

(c) the salient features of the proposed legislation; and

(d) whether the amending legislation will also provide for deterrent penalties against defaulting employers and their officials for failure to pay the Provident Fund dues in time?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) to (d). The Central Board of Trustees had in the course of their several meetings suggested certain amendments to the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. Several amendments including those recommended by the Board, providing for more deterrent penalties against the defaulting employers are under consideration in consultation with concerned interests.

**Arab League for Amicable Settlement of Indo-Pak Difference**

2541. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Mr. Abdel Khalek Hassouna, Secretary General of Arab League urging to settle the differences amicably with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) The Government of India has so far not received any communication to this effect.

(b) Does not arise.

**Employees in Various Pay Ranges in Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation**

2542. **SHRI AMBESH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in his Ministry/Department in various ranges of Pay upto (i) Rs. 200, (ii) Rs. 500, (iii) Rs. 1000, (iv) Rs. 1500 and above Rs. 1,500; and

(b) the number of employees amongst them belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, separately?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR):** (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.