

Article 356

983. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to invoke article 356 of the constitution against State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Cases of Provident Fund

984. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending cases of Provident Fund in various tribunals in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) At present here is only one Employees' Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal set up at Delhi with effect from 1.7.1997. The information showing number of cases (State-wise) pending before the Tribunal is given in the attached Statement. In order to expedite the process of disposal of the cases, the Tribunal in addition to regular hearings is also organising camp hearings in different parts of the country.

Statement

As on 30.4.1998

Sl. No.	State/Region	Number of Pending cases in the PF Tribunal
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29
2.	Bihar	15
3.	Delhi	03
4.	Gujarat	30
5.	Haryana	04
6.	Karnataka	02
7.	Kerala	40

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	06
9.	Maharashtra	12
10.	N.E. Region	00
11.	Orissa	06
12.	Punjab	30
13.	Rajasthan	20
14.	Tamil Nadu	60
15.	Uttar Pradesh	11
16.	West Bengal	01
Total		269

[Translation]

Production/Consumption of Sugar

985. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the production/consumption of sugar in the country during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether there is a domestic shortage of sugar at present;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the sugar production to meet the requirement for PDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The production/consumption of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons and the current sugar season 1997-98 is as under :-

Sugar Season (Oct. -Sept.)	Production	Internal Consumption (In lakh tonnes)
1994-95	146.43	119.74*
1995-96	184.29	131.72*
1996-97	129.05	137.92
1997-98 (upto 30.4.98)	121.45	79.76

*Excluding sugar imported by private parties under O.G.L.