

fuse to run sick units by forming their own co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) In the meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee held on 20.1.1992 certain Central Trade Union Organisations suggested setting up of workers' cooperatives by the workers voluntarily investing in the equity share of the sick public sector companies. However, no proposal has been received in the Ministry of Labour from any Trade Union or group of workers of any sick public sector unit for running the unit by forming workers' cooperative.

Ministry of Labour has not worked out any general scheme for workers' cooperative for running sick units. It is mandatory for the management of a sick public sector company to refer the case to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' cooperatives is one of the measures feasible under the Act. Proposals of workers for revival of sick industrial companies, whenever received, are considered on merits by the BIFR. Suspension of Banks and creditors liabilities of individual sick units is a matter to be considered as part of rehabilitation proposals before BIFR after opportunities are given to the creditor institutions concerned.

Demand for pension as a third retirement benefit

*8. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have turned down the employees' demand for providing pension as a third retirement benefit besides GPF and gratuity to the workers, including journalists;

(b) if so, what was the precise demand of the employees; and

(c) what is the ground on which the same has been turned down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Some individuals/trade unions have demanded provision of Pension as a third benefit in addition to the contributory Provident Fund. The Government has not favoured functioning of both the CPF and Pension scheme simultaneously as they are mutually exclusive. Therefore, the question of providing pension as a third benefit to the EPF subscribers does not arise.

Correlations-between income and supplies under PDS

*9. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a correlation between the per capita income and per capita supplies under public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the richer States have accounted for a larger share in the Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Allocations of PDS Commodities to States/UTs are not made on the basis of per capita income. The Central Government makes bulk allocation of commodities such as rice, wheat, kerosene, soft coke and imported edible oils to the State Government/UT Administrations taking into account the position of stocks in Central Pool, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. Levy sugar allocation is generally made on a uniform norm of 425 gms. per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1.10.1986. A 5% adhoc increase in the levy sugar allocation was granted to States/UTs from

August, 1991. Genuine demands and needs of States/UTs are always taken into consideration while making allocations.

Consumer movement in rural areas

*10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a plan of action to take the consumer movement to the rural areas, for the benefit of the people and if so what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for the speedy disposal of consumers' grievances and problems?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL, SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government are taking a number of steps to create consumer awareness in the country including the rural areas. Some of the steps are:—

(i) Encouraging formation of consumer organisations in rural areas;

(ii) Giving preference for financial assistance to consumer organisations working in rural areas for undertaking programmes for creating consumer awareness;

(iii) Distributing the Government journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" to the libraries upto block levels;

(iv) Broadcasting at a Weekly Programme "Apna Adhikar" from the commercial broadcasting stations of AIR and telecast of education programmes on Doordarshan;

(v) Giving preferences to the consumers organisations working in rural areas for the purpose of National Awards on Consumer Protection etc.

(c) Government has enacted and enforced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to provide speedy redressal to consumer grievances relating to defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices etc. The Act envisages three tier redressal agencies at the national, state and district levels to redress consumer grievances. Recently, Government has promulgated the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 on 18.6.1993 which enables setting up of more than one District Forum in a district by the State Governments depending upon the work load.

Cat scan machines for ESI hospitals

*11. SHRI BRAHAMDEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESI Hospitals in the country do not have CAT scanning machines;

(b) whether Government propose to purchase CAT scanning machines for these hospitals; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these machines are likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For Cat scanning diagnostic facilities the cases of the ESI beneficiaries are referred to renowned medical institutions in the country and the expenditure, incurred is re-imbursed to the insured persons under the ESI Scheme. This arrangement has been found economical. Therefore there is no proposal to purchase Cat scanning Machines for the ESI Hospitals.

Collaboration with China in coal mining

*12. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: