

(a) whether Government have so far taken any final decision to convert the Employees Provident Fund into a Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government's/PSUs have been consulted in this regard including the Labour Unions;

(d) if so, the reaction of State Governments/PSUs, etc. thereto; and

(e) the stage at which the proposal stands as a result of discussion and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Central Board of Trustees, EPF is a tripartite body consisting of representative of employees, employer, and Central/State Governments. The Board has unanimously recommended for introduction of a suitable pension scheme at an advanced stage of consideration. As implementation of Board's recommendations involves amendment of the EPF & MP Act, it is difficult to indicate the time limit with which the proposals would be implemented.

Verifications of membership of port and dock Trade Unions

2383. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the last verification of membership of various registered trade unions of port and dock workers in major ports was carried out;

(b) what is the name and membership figure of each of them portwise and also the name of the federation to which they are affiliated; and

(c) when the next verification will be carried out?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The last verification of member-

ship of various registered trade unions of ports and dock workers was carried out in 1989-90 with 31.12.1988 as the date of reckoning. The details regarding names and membership figure of each trade union portwise and the names of federation to which they are affiliated is enclosed, as annexure. (See Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 38) Verification in ports and dock labour boards is carried out bi-annually. The verification with 31-12-1990 as the date of reckoning is in progress.

Exploitation of employees of Hindustan Lever Ltd.

2384. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases have been filed in the labour courts of the country against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited and its various subsidiaries by their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a number of complaints against the management of the various units of M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited regarding harassment/exploitation of its employees in violation of various laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take against M/s Hindustan Lever Limited to protect the rights of employees working there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House at the earliest.

Exploitation of child labour in carpet Industry

2385. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that carpet manufacturers in varanasi and Mirzapur etc. continue to exploit the child-labour making them work for extra hours on much less wages than the adults and

about 40 per cent of whom are reported to be bonded labour;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any survey of the child-labour and their conditions of work; if so, when it was last conducted and what was the result thereof; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to liberate the bonded child labour and to improve their conditions of work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The State Government of UP has reported that there are complaints against the employment of child labour and their exploitation in carpet industry. The bonded labour system has been abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 the implementation of which is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Whenever existence of bonded labour comes to notice, the concerned State Government is requested to take immediate appropriate action to liberate them. To supplement the efforts of the State Government in rehabilitation of the bonded labour, the Ministry of Labour is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme whereby financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 6250 is provided to each bonded labour.

Employment of children below 14 years of age in carpet weaving is banned under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Labour enforcement machinery conducts inspections and prosecutes offenders whenever cases of violation are detected.

Under the National Child Labour Policy, in the Varansi Mirzapur area, education and other facilities are being provided in 20 special schools for 1000 children removed from employment in carpet industry.

No comprehensive survey has been undertaken of the child labour and their conditions of work.

Employees' participation in management

2386. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far to ensure Employees' participation in management in Central Public sector undertakings and enterprises since the enunciation of policy in December, 1983;

(b) to what extent employees are represented in the Management board and what percentage of the enterprises have already been covered by the participation scheme; and

(c) whether such participation is secured in respect of all management affairs and if not, what type of policy or other matters are beyond such participation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) A scheme of Employees' Participation in Management was notified by the Central Government on 30th December, 1983. It is applicable to all Central Public Sector undertakings except those which are specifically exempted. The scheme provides for employees' participation at the shop floor and plant levels. As regards participation at the Board level, the administrative Ministry/Department concerned (incharge of the undertaking) can take a decision in consultation with Ministry of Labour.

The participating arrangements cover matters relating to the production at the shop floor level operational areas at plant level, personnel matters and environmental areas.

The Workers' Participation in Management Bill, 1990 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha is pending consideration of the Parliament.

Electricity Generation from Solar Energy

2387. SHRI SHIBCHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: