

agreed that every effort would be made to expedite supply of the equipment.

Liquidation of Lucknow Upphokta Sahkari Bhandar Ltd

3115. SHRI B. L. PANWAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from some Member of Parliament to the effect that the State Government may be directed to cancel the liquidation orders against Lucknow Kendriya Upphokta Sahkari Bhandar Ltd., Naya Bazar, Lucknow and clear the arrears of salary of the staff; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was taken up with the State Government who informed that the accumulated losses of the Bhandar upto 1985-86 were Rs. 95.48 lakhs and it was not feasible to revive it. Moreover, it has been reported that a writ petition has been filed in High Court (Lucknow bench) and the matter is subjudice.

Provident fund contribution by Newspapers employees in Uttar Pradesh

3116. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The daily newspaper establishments in Uttar Pradesh which have collected Provident Fund contributions from employees but have not deposited these amounts in Provident Fund Commissioner's Office or their

own (employees) contributory fund for the last three years; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against them under the amended law?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY):

(a) The following daily News-paper establishments in Uttar Pradesh have not deposited the provident fund contributions (including employees' share of contributions) during the last 3 years:—

(i) M/s Vishwamitra Press, Kanpur.

(ii) M/s Associated Journals, Lucknow.

(iii) M/s Northern India Patrika, Lucknow.

(b) The EPF authorities are taking the following action for recovery of the outstanding dues:—

(i) Filing of prosecutions under section 14 of the EPE Act;

(ii) Filing of complaints under section 406/409 of IPC;

(iii) Issuing of Revenue Recovery Certificates under section 8 of the EPF Act.

Increase in the fees of tax audit

3117. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fees of Tax-Audit has been increased by Rs. 10,000 per auditor in NCCF during 1987-88;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no reference was made to the existing tax auditors before increasing fees and changing them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were given tax audit work during the days when audit reports were being finalised;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any responsibility for these serious lapses has been fixed; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above—question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were appointed as Tax Auditors for 1987-88 in February, 1988 for ensuring timely submission of tax audit report to Income-tax authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

Technology for cultivation of potatoes

3118. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Potato Research Institute has developed a new technology for growing potatoes on a large scale;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the new technology developed by the CPRI;

(c) to what extent the above technology would be useful for the small farmers in the country; and

(d) what are the locations and States where this technology would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Potato Research Institute has developed new technologies for rapid multiplication of virus tested stocks through sprouts, micropropagation, tuberlet production etc. Sensitive methods for virus detection are also being used. The technology for raising commercial crop by using true potato seed (TPS) has yielded four promising hybrids which are under multilocation trials.

(c) The above technologies would be useful to potato growers as these will help in providing healthy and disease free seeds, which are easy to store and transport. These will also reduce cost of cultivation and release seed tubers for consumption.

(d) Once fully tested, the technologies will be available through out the reduce cost of cultivation and release country.

Appointment of Tax Auditors of NCCF

3119. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. R. K. Sharma and Associates and M/s. K. K. Goel and Associates, Chartered Accountants were appointed as Tax Auditors of NCCF in July, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tax audit report submitted by M/s. R. K. Sharma and Associates has highlighted serious irregularities including shortfall of Rs. 9 crore in the stocks; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken against the erring officials for these irregularities?