

under the financial powers conferred to such officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons for which the furniture worth Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 14,000/- were purchased at a time by the A.P.F.C., Patna, Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of wages labourers engaged by Builders Association, Itarsi

1112. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the members of the Builders Association, Itarsi did not allow their labourers to work for 4 days recently at the Ordnance Factory, Itarsi, in their personal interest;

(b) whether it is a fact that they did not pay wages for these four days to about 4,000 labourers;

(c) whether the action of the members of the Builders Association is against the provisions of Labour Law;

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take for the payment of the wages to the poor labourers; and

(e) what action Government propose to take against the Builders Association, Itarsi, who are responsible for the stoppage of work in this year of Productivity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) to (e) The information has been called from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Regional P. F. Office, Delhi

1113. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has decided to divide the Regional Provident Fund Office, Delhi in two parts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been decided to maintain the Regional Office and Sub-Regional Office on the present strength of establishment factory workers of Delhi; and

(c) the place where the proposed Sub-office in Delhi is being set up and by when it will be set up and whether the Regional Office and Sub-Regional Office are being opened as the majority of workers are from Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) to (c) It has been recommended by the General Purposes Committee of the Central Board of Trustees of the E.P.F. Organisation on 14-4-82 that a part of the Regional Office at Nehru Place may be shifted to some other industrial area in Delhi and given the status of a Sub-Regional Office. Details are yet to be worked out.

Report of the Expert Group on the Impact of Anti Poverty Schemes

1114. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert group appointed by the Planning Commission to assess the overall impact of anti-poverty schemes has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the findings and lacunae pointed out in implementation of rural employment and development programme;

(c) what has been the impact of the said scheme on people below the poverty line; and

(d) whether it is a fact that persons in acute poverty have remained unchanged?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement indicating the main findings and lacunae pointed out by the Expert Group is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) As the two main anti-poverty programmes, namely, the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme have been in operation throughout the country for less than two years it is too early to pronounce on their impact. However, available evidence shows that a considerable number of people below the poverty line have been benefited from these programmes.

Statement

Main findings of the Group and lacunae pointed out by it are indicated below:—

(1) The recruitment, training and posting of staff in the District Rural Development Agencies has picked up momentum and most of the agencies are functioning.

(2) The block is the basic unit for rural development. Over the years its role and responsibility for co-ordinating and implementing different sectoral development programmes had suffered a set back.

(3) Emphasis also need to be laid on adequate training and orientation of the blocks staff for implementing the IRDP and other programmes of poverty alleviation in the rural areas. Needless to mention that there are quite complex projects to implement and administer.

(4) There is need to forge linkages between the integrated Tribal

Development Projects and District Rural Development Agencies.

(5) The fact remains that the support has not been forthcoming in adequate measure from the concerned departments. Co-ordination too has been weak at the district and weaker still at the block level.

(6) The flow of institutional credit to the IRDP families is beset with a number of problems. Institutional finance has not flowed to the extent expected.

(7) The General Body of the Village i.e. the *Gram Seva* or the elected body the *Gaon Panchayat* is not always consulted in the selection of the poorest families. The involvement of the local bodies—statutory and otherwise has not been to the extent desired.

(8) Some arrangements have been made for the involvement of voluntary agencies etc. but these are at best feeble and half-hearted.

(9) The scheme (TRYSEM) as formulated, thus excludes a large number of other rural youths who too are badly in need of acquisition of skill from its purview.

These recommendations of the Expert Group are given in Chapter III of the Report (pages 31 to 65) copies of which are available in the Library of Parliament (Index No. 339—46R).

Proposal for industrialisation of Assam

1115. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government have submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for industrialisation of Assam based on downstream products of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Limited (BRPL) involving estimated amount of Rs. 700 crores; and

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