

### Pigmy Deposit Collectors in Banks

1497. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 2 lakh persons are working as Pigmy Deposit Collectors in various Scheduled, Non-Scheduled and Co-operative Banks;

(b) what are the protective laws for their Leave, Provident Fund and Minimum Wages; and

(c) whether the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 has not been made applicable to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) and (b) Government is collecting the information and it will be furnished as soon as it is made available.

(c) The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 at present applies only to employees in the pharmaceutical industry. The suggestion for extending that Act to Sales Promotion Employees engaged in other industries has been taken note of by the Government.

### ताला बंदी और हड़ताल

1498. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि 1 जनवरी, 1980 से 31 अक्तूबर, 1980 तक देश में कितनी तालाबंदियां तथा हड़ताल हुई, इस से पिछले वर्ष इसी अवधि में उनकी संख्या क्या थी, और इस वर्ष इन तालाबंदियों तथा हड़तालों के कारण कितने श्रम दिवसों की हानि हुई?

### †[Lock-outs and Strikes

1498. SHRI NAGESWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of lock-outs and strikes in the country during the period from 1st January, 1980 to 31st October, 1980, the num-

ber during the same period in the previous year and the number of man-days lost due to these lock-outs and strikes this year?]

श्रम मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री पी० वेंकट रेड्डी) : उपलब्ध अनंतिम सूचना के अनुसार जनवरी से सितम्बर, 1980 तक की अवधि के दौरान 1783 तालाबंदियां और हड़तालें हुई, जबकि पिछले वर्ष समरूपी अवधि में 2431 तालाबंदियां और हड़तालें हुई। जनवरी से सितम्बर, 1980 के दौरान तालाबंदियों और हड़तालों के कारण नष्ट हुए श्रम दिवसों की संख्या 90.89 लाख (अनन्तिम) थी। अक्तूबर, 1980 माह की वैसी ही सूचना अभी तक उपलब्ध नहीं है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): According to the available provisional information, there were 1783 lock-outs and strikes during January to September, 1980 as against 2431 in the corresponding period of the last year. The number of man-days lost due to lock-outs and strikes during January to September, 1980, was 9.89 million (Provisional). Similar information for the month of October, 1980 is not yet available.]

### Opening of Sub-Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's Office at Muzaffarpur

1499. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the workers employed in the large number of factories in North Bihar, covered by the P.F. Scheme in visiting regional P.F. Commissioner's office at Patna for attending proceedings under section 7A and 14B of the Act, including petty matters; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open a sub-regional office of the Provident Fund Commissioner

at Muzaffarpur in the near future with a view to mitigate the inconvenience to the employers and workers, if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provident fund authorities have reported that the proposal for opening of a Sub-Regional Office at Muzaffarpur, is under consideration and that it would be placed before the Central Board of Trustees at their next meeting.

**Representation from West Bengal Tea Employees' Association**

**1500. SHRI SONGDOPAL LEPCHA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation dated 27-7-80 has been received from West Bengal Tea Employees' Association, Jalpaiguri, for amendment of Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 so as to cover those employees with income upto Rs. 1000/- under the scheme in view of the reduction in purchasing power of the rupee; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various proposals for amendment of the Gratuity Act, 1972 including amendment of the salary limit are under consideration. The suggestion of the Association will be given consideration while taking decisions on the proposals.

**Tripartite Conference on Beedi Industry**

**1501. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tripartite Conference on Beedi Industry was postponed twice; and

(b) whether Government proposes to convene the meeting in this regard, if so, when?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting is being convened early in January, 1981.

**Issue of Provident Fund Pass Books to Employees**

**1502. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund pass books are proposed to be issued to employees contributing the Employees Provident Fund Scheme on an experimental basis in selected areas;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) how far this is likely to improve the working of the said organisations and benefit the contributors?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY):** (a) to (c) The Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund at its 86th meeting held on the 13th and 14th October, 1980 decided that a scheme for issue of pass books be prepared by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner in consultation with the Chairman of the Regional Committees of Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where it is proposed to be tried on an experimental basis. The Board felt that the issue of such pass books will benefit the contributors by having with them a running record of their account.

**Delay in Payment to Retiring Officers**

**1503. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 504 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1980 and state: