

(9) In addition to the Assistant Haj Officer, one post of Attache in the Embassy has been filled by a suitable officer, to look after the welfare of pilgrims, during current Haj season.

(10) The Haj Committee has also donated a heavy duty water cooler for installation in front of the Indian Dispensary building in Mecca for the benefit of the pilgrims.

(11) The basic bunk class fare was fixed at Rs. 1900 as against a higher amount demanded by M/s. Mogul Lines.

(12) Charter air-fare was fixed at 66 per cent of IATA fare as against 75 per cent fixed for the 1977 Haj.

(13) Haj Committee was advised not to levy any service charges on air pilgrims this year, where-as in 1977 the service charge levied was Rs. 216.

(14) Haj Committee was advised to collect contributions to the Haj House on a voluntary basis and not to impose the same as compulsory levy.

(b) (1) M/s. Air India charged Rs. 3830 per pilgrim this year which is 66 per cent of Bombay-Jeddah-Bombay normal IATA fare.

(2) The National Shipping Lines incurred a loss of Rs. 122.57 lakhs during 1977 Haj season on account of operating the Haj sailings on the bunk class fare fixed by the Government. 80 per cent of the loss i.e. Rs. 98.06 lakhs will be claimed by them from Government. For the 1978 Haj season the actual amount of loss will be calculated after the sailing are over in February, 1979. But it is expected that the loss may not be less than the loss in 1977.

(3) An amount of Rs. 5,48,000 is estimated to be spent by the Government of India during 1978-79 Haj season on Medical Mission, ambulance vans etc.

Provident Fund Arrears

746. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to realise Rs. 919.07 lakhs due as provident fund arrears from the establishments under the authorised controllers as on the 31st March, 1978?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): A sizeable portion of the sum of Rs. 919.07 lakhs consists of due from textile mills which were run by the authorised controllers and were taken over subsequently by the National Textile Corporation. For the recovery of these arrears in respect of textile mills, the Provident Fund authorities have filed claims before the Commissioners of Payments. The question of recoveries from other establishments under the Authorised Controllers is also being pursued.

Changes in the U.N. Charter

747. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has approached all the members countries of the U.N. for making certain changes in the U.N. Charter; and

(b) if so, what are the changes that have been suggested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.