

locality allowance" under a separate set of rules. The Postal employees in Darjeeling district of West Bengal will not come under this category.

(b) Does not arise.

Advertising agencies collecting advertisements for the Bihar Circle Telephone Directory

1714. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract for collecting advertisements for the Bihar Circle Telephone Directory is given every year; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the advertising agencies to whom the contract was given during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Normally contract for procuring advertisements to Agents is given for two years. However, in view of the impending revision of reserve rates for booking advertisements for various spaces in telephone directory it has been decided in 1977 to give contract for one issue only.

(b) The last issue of Bihar Circle directory was of July, 1973 (brought out in Feb., 74) in respect of which M/s. Transport, Advertising Service, Patna were the advertising agents. As this firm failed to deposit Government share of advertisement revenue as per terms of the contract and went into liquidation contract with them was terminated and M/s. Avantika Vigyapan were given contract for one year in 1975, both for English and Hindi editions.

Thereafter no advertising agent was appointed as the Circle switched to printing of telephone directories on divisional basis for which advertisements are collected departmentally.

Arrears of Provident Fund

1715. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of provident fund arrears due from establishments under authorised controllers; and

(b) the amount of provident fund not invested by the Board of Trustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): The Employees' Provident Fund Authorities have intimated as follows:—

(a) A sum of Rs. 919.07 lakhs was outstanding towards Provident Fund arrears against the establishments under Authorised Controllers as on 31st March, 1978.

(b) The total amount of provident fund not invested by the Boards of Trustees of the exempted Provident Funds as on 31st March, 1978 was Rs. 484.20 lakhs.

Contract for the advertisements to M/s. Avantika Vigyapan Private Limited, Patna for Bihar Circle Telephone Directory

17U6. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

SHRI LALSAWIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Avantika Vigyapan Private Ltd. Patna, was given contract in 1975 for collecting advertisements for the Bihar Circle Telephone Directory;

(b) if so, what are the names of the parties who have given advertisements together with the amount collected from each party till the 20th July, 1978;

(c) whether the said firm furnished any bank guarantee;

(d) if so, what is the amount involved in the bank guarantee; and whether the said firm has since withdrawn the bank guarantee;

(e) what are the circumstances under which the amount involved in the bank guarantee was withdrawn by the firm;

(1) whether Government have taken any action against the firm for fraudulently withdrawing the bank guarantee; and

(g) if not, whether Government propose to fix any responsibility against the officials concerned with the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of English Directory, accounts were not furnished by the firm. As regards Hindi Directory, the firm collected Rs. 20070/- but did not furnish the details.

(c) Yes, Sir. Separately for English and Hindi Directories.

Td) For English Directory, Rs. 35031 and for Hindi Directory Rs. 9840. The firm could not withdraw the bank guarantee.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir. The bank agreed to withhold the bank guarantee on the request made by the Bihar Circle office.

Does not arise.

Employment of contract labour in the limestone, dolomite and manganese mines

1717. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

bri.

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 431 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th May, 1978 and state;

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in issuing of (the notifications by Government prohibiting employment of contract labour in the limestone, dolomite and manganese mines as unanimously recommended by three committees and by the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board;

(b) whether the process of consultations with the concerned Ministries in this regard has been completed; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received the report of the committee on contract labour system in iron ore mines;

(d) if so, what are the recommendations of the committee;

(e) what are the reasons for the delay in accepting the recommendations of the committee;

(f) whether Government are aware that taking advantage of the delay, public sector and private sector iron ore concerns are retrenching thousands of iron ore workers under contractors; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government have taken to prevent this massive retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Consultations with the Ministry of Steel &