

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

1716. 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;