

stopped our export. Certain categories of steel they have stopped. Perhaps they are themselves manufacturing them. Still we are exporting a very great quantity of steel to Iran. Particularly in West Asian countries, our export is of quite a high order. And as the hon. Member knows, this year by this time we have already booked export for more than 2.2 million tonnes of steel.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Why has the market price of internal steel risen by about Rs. 200 per tonne from March to May this year? Is it because of this pressure on internal supply.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Really speaking, our prices comparatively have come considerably down. Certain prices were increased because of the rise in coal prices and because of the railway freight increase. And the prices, really speaking, have started rising because the internal market is picking up slowly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Suggestions of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners to Recover Provident Fund Dues

*400. **SHRI S. W. DHABE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what decisions were taken at the recent meeting of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners regarding the recovery of Provident Fund dues from various employers; and

(b) what is the number of managements that have not deposited wages deducted from the employees under the Compulsory Deposits Scheme since the enforcement of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Statement

The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under :—

(a) The Regional Provident Fund Commissioners are the nominated authorities

under the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974. They met on the 10th and 11th May, 1976 to review the working of the Additional Emoluments (Compulsory Deposit) Act, 1974. This opportunity was also availed of to discuss the problems concerning speedy implementation of the provisions of Employees Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and *inter alia* the following instructions were given to the Regional Commissioners by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner :—

(1) Regional Commissioners should immediately evolve a time bound programme for clearance of arrears of annual statements of accounts and provident fund claims.

(2) Regional Commissioners should contact the Organisations of employers by institutional approach to bring down the Provident Fund arrears and also constantly pursue the cases of heavy defaulters. In all cases of defaults of over Rs. 15,000/- Regional Commissioners should submit certificate of action taken periodically.

(3) Immediate penal action should be taken against defaulters and greater recourse should be taken in filing complaints under sections 406/409 Indian Penal Code in respect of chronic and heavy defaulters.

(4) The work of levy of damages on belated payment of Provident Fund should be given top-priority.

(5) Inspectors should concentrate on the arrears where the Provident Fund arrears are more and the inspections should be performance-oriented.

(6) Steps should be taken for prompt settlement of claims by waiving minor points, part payment and by giving guidance and help.

(7) Annual Account slips should be issued with greater speed.

Working of Calcutta Telephones

*402. **SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN :**

SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item and editorial

which appeared in the Ananda Bazar Patrika of the 27th April, and 1st May, 1976 regarding alleged chaos in the entire Calcutta telephone system resulting in constant breakdowns in most of the telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether is it a fact that during the period from 27th April, to 1st May, 1976 about 350 to 2500 lines in various exchanges were found to be out of order and there was a serious situation in telephone exchange No. 44;

(d) if so, what are the causes which led to this state of affairs; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) to (e) The news item and the editorial mentioned *inter-alia*, that a large number of telephone connections in Calcutta had gone out of order.

The total number of faults in the different exchanges was of the order of about 5% of the working connections. In the 44-exchange, out of the 9,000 working connections about 6% telephones were affected.

The under-ground telephone cables laid on the sides of the roads had been damaged due to various digging operations. The faults showed up after heavy showers during early April and thereafter.

Immediate repair work was initiated by mobilising all possible resources of men and material by the Calcutta Telephones. Additional staff was deployed by temporarily suspending other work. Of the telephones which went out of order towards the end of April, all except about 250 have been restored. Repair work is continuing with full force.

Availability of bauxite in Bolangir

*403. SHRI NARASINGH PRASAD NANDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated quantity of bauxite deposits in Gandhamardan in the District of Bolangir;

(b) Whether the mineral has been analysed; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to establish an aluminium plant at Titilagarh for the proper utilisation of this mineral?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) :

(a) An indicated reserve of 12 million tonnes of metal grade bauxite has so far been estimated in the Gandhamardan Hills of Bolangir District in Orissa, although there is a possibility of larger reserves being found in this area.

(b) The bauxite analyses show a content of 46—50% alumina; 18—22% ferric oxide; 1.3 to 5% silica and 1 to 3% titanium oxide.

(c) No, Sir.

कमजोर वर्गों को रोजगार प्रदान करने के लिए नयी अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना

* 404. डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को रोजगार और प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिये एक नयी अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना बनाई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त योजना किन किन राज्यों में चालू कर दी गई है और इस योजना के अंतर्गत प्रत्येक राज्य में कितने लोगों को रोजगार मिला है ?

†[New apprenticeship scheme for providing employment to the weaker sections

404. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved a new apprenticeship scheme for providing employment and training to the weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the States in which the scheme has been implemented and what is the number of

†[]English translation.