

are such people who are highly qualified—technicians, medical men and so on—on whom the nation has spent money for their education and so on? Have all these things been taken into account. Besides, may I know whether he is aware that some of the countries in West Asia are offering big money for very small employment sometimes in order to take people and that there are agents working for that? I should like to know whether the whole matter is being reviewed from the point of view of the interest of the nation in order to see in what manner—you may call it regulation or anything—the situation should be handled. I should also like to know in this connection whether, in respect of those experts and qualified people who are there, an attempt would be made to see that their services are utilised in our country also because some of them have left out of sheer desperation.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : Government is quite alive to the problems referred to by the hon Member. And certainly, we do not want such experts to go out when their service is essential for the country. And there is almost a ban on certain categories of people who will not be allowed to go out except on a contract basis. There are certain categories who may be allowed. To handle this problem, the Government is seriously thinking of regulating the whole thing, and the matter is under consideration at the highest level.

DR. M. R. VYAS : Has the Government undertaken any survey of the fate of those Indians who have migrated abroad and has the Government any information about the racketeering which is going on in the name of providing employment in West Asia?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : We have not made a very systematic survey, but we have information at our disposal. What the hon. Member says is quite correct. Some racketeer is going on. In order to prevent the exploitation of these people by unscrupulous agencies, we are going to have some regulatory measures.

* 400. [*The Questioner (Shri S. W. Dhake) was absent. For answer vide col. 35—36 infra.*]
2—285 RSS/76

Iranian Ban on Import of Indian Steel

*401. **SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA** : †
DR. V. B. SINGH :
SHRI HIMMAT SINH :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Iran has banned import of Indian structural steel;

(b) if so, what are the reasons given by the Government of Iran therefor; and

(c) what is the steel export programme for the current year and how Government proposes to fulfil the target in view of Iran's decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) and (b) It has been reported that Iran has restricted import of certain sizes of INP Joists since April, 1976 due to availability of such materials within that country to meet their internal demands. This restriction, however, is not confined to Indian structurals alone.

(c) The target for export of Iron and steel during the current year 1976-77 is 2.5 million tonnes. The exports during the first two months of the current year are likely to be more than 400,000 tonnes. At this rate, it is expected that there will be no difficulty in fulfilling the target.

12 Noon

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is the Government aware that Japan, which was the main supplier of steel to West Asia, has got large export orders from China and it is also engaged in exporting sophisticated special steel to the USA, thereby leaving the West Asian market free? If so, is he taking steps, because Iran has stopped our exports, to exploit the West Asian market and supply them Indian steel?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : Sir, it will not be correct to say that Iran has

† The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya.

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