

PROVIDENT FUND ACT

1128. SHRIMATI SITA DEVI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to amend the Provident Fund Act, 1952 ;
- (b) if so, the details of the amendments likely to be proposed ;
- (c) the extent to which the workers will be benefited by such amendments; and
- (d) whether any provision is likely to be laid down for offending employers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI. V. RAGHU-NATHA REDDY): (a) and (b) The Amending Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 7th March, 1973.

(c) and (d) The Bill seeks to amend the Act to make the penal provisions more stringent and is inter alia, intended to check defaults on the part of employers in payment of Provident Fund dues.

TRAFFICKING IN INDIAN WOMEN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1129. SHRI O. P. TYAGI :
SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA : SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 5th January, 1973 regarding trafficking in women ;
- (b) if so, what is the number of cases of emigration of girls to foreign countries on the basis of arranged marriages to the Arabs ; and
- (c) the number of cases in which action was taken under the Passport Act for obtaining passports on such false grounds as mentioned in the news item ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It would be difficult to give a reliable figure of Indian girls who emigrated to Arab countries on the basis of arranged marriages. While some may have travelled on Indian passports, some could have departed on passports obtained from the Missions of the concerned Arab countries in India. It is also possible that a number of them could have gone by unauthorised means of transport without any passports.

Indian passports are issued to such girls only on production of valid marriage documents, in addition to completion of usual passport formalities.

The Central Government has taken due note of the possible existence of such illicit emigration and has already, inter alia, requested the State Governments to tighten up security arrangements at all possible exit points to check any illicit outflow of Indian women to the Gulf countries. The State Governments have also been advised to give the widest possible publicity, primarily through the language newspapers and through the local social welfare organisations, to educate the vulnerable strata and to expose the machinations of illicit travel agencies/touts etc.

The newspaper report, which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 5th January, 1973, in fact relates to the pamphlet issued by the Chandigarh Administration on the basis of the 'Background Material' on 'Maid-running Racket' furnished by the Ministry of External Affairs to the various State Governments/Union Territories Administrations for the guidance of publicity organs and social welfare organisations.

In this connection the further recognition of one Travel Agency based at Bombay has been withheld.

FINANCIAL SCHEMES FOR THE DEPENDENTS OF MARTYRS

1130. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union and State Government have drawn up any scheme to ease the financial difficulties of the dependents of the martyrs in the Indo-Pak War 1971; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes?

THE DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK) : (a) and (b). The most significant scheme to ease the financial difficulties of the dependents of the martyrs of 1971 is the liberalised pensionary awards made available to them. The nominated heir of a JCO/Jawan has been made entitled to a special family pension till death or disqualification at the rate of pay last drawn by the deceased. For example, the nominated heir of a Sepoy with one year service will draw a special family pension of Rs. 210/ per month for life, the amount he (the Sepoy) drew immediately before his death. The nominated heir of a Subedar with 20 years service draws a special family pension of Rs. 395 per month.

In addition, family gratuity has also been made available to the families at the rate of 10 times of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 2000. The nominated heir of a Sepoy with one year service is entitled to Rs. 2000 and that of a Subedar with 20 year service Rs. 3,530. A death-cum-retirement gratuity is also admissible to them. This amounts to two months pay after death in the first year of service, 6 months pay where the soldier was killed after one year service but before completion of 5 years of service and 1/4th of one month's pay for each completed 6 months service in the case of those who have been killed after completing 5 years service.

In the case of officers, the widow of an officer is entitled to a special family pension equal to 3/4th of the basic pay last drawn by him. This is admissible for 7 year

after the death of the officer or till his deemed date of retirement whichever is later. Thereafter, special family pension is payable at the rate of normal retiring pension of the rank held by the deceased officer at the time of his death. In addition a sliding scale of family gratuity beginning with Rs. 5000 to the widow of a 2nd/Lt. is also admissible.

In addition, education has been made free to the children of all those killed or permanently disabled in action up to the 1st degree level including cost of boarding, lodging, uniform and books, in all educational institutions recognised by Central Government. State Governments have also issued similar orders.

Up to two dependents of those killed have been made entitled to be recruited in Central Government jobs without the intervention of the employment exchange to support the war bereaved family. State Governments have issued similar orders.

State Governments have also announced ex-gratia grants to the next of kin of those servicemen killed in the 1971 operations hailing from within the State. This varies from State to State but in no case it is less than Rs. 2000 for ORs. and Rs. 5000 for officers.

1131. [Transferred to the 20th March 1973].

U.D.Cs. IN THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

1132. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Upper Division Clerks filled up in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, consequent upon the revision of ratio between Upper division Clerks and Lower Division Clerks; and

(b) the break-up of the above figures, region-wise?