

Government of India. The information as furnished by the Employees Provident Fund Authorities is given below :

(i) As on the 31st July, 1968, the total number of establishments covered under the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, was 42,346.

(ii) As on the 31st July, 1968, about 52.75 lakh employees stood covered under the Act. The percentage of the covered employees to the overall strength of employees employed in the industries/classes of establishments covered under the Act, was 82 per cent.

HOSPITAL BEDS FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER E. S. I. ACT

377. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Sub-Committee of the Employees State Insurance Corporation recommended to provide only 4 beds per one thousand employees against 11 beds in the hospitals as at present ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons quoted by the Sub-Committee for this cut in the number of hospital beds for the employees under Employees State Insurance Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) :

(a) Yes.

(b) The Sub-Committee felt that even if employers' contribution was realised at the full rate as in Schedule I to the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, it would not be possible for the Employees State Insurance Corporation to support more than 4 beds per thousand employees family units.

DIRECT DIALLING TELEPHONE SYSTEM BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

378. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Direct Dialling Telephone System will be introduced between Delhi and Madras on the Gandhi Centenary day ; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) :

(a) No.

(b) As already explained in reply to Rajya Sabha question No. 322 discussed on 22nd November, 1968 that for providing direct dialling facility between Delhi and Madras there are certain limitations on the switching equipment for the interconnection of Trunk Automatic Exchanges as a result much higher traffic now anticipated. For the present therefore regional dialling would be resorted to.

मध्य प्रदेश में आकाशवाणी के प्रसारण केन्द्र

379. पंडित भवानी प्रसाद तिवारी : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में आकाशवाणी के कितने प्रमुख प्रसारण केन्द्र और उपकेन्द्र हैं और वे कहीं-कहीं पर हैं ;

(ख) विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों की प्रसारण शक्ति और क्षमता में कितना अन्तर है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार इन उपकेन्द्रों की शक्ति और क्षमता को बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है ; यदि हाँ तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) क्या उस राज्य में कोई नया उप-केन्द्र स्थापित करने का कोई निर्णय किया गया है ?

†[BROADCASTING STATIONS OF A.I.R. IN M.P.]

379. PT. BHAWANI PRASAD TIWARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and locations of major broadcasting stations and sub-stations of the All India Radio in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) what is the difference in the transmitting power and capacity of the various sub-stations ;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the power and capacity of those sub-stations ; if so, the details thereof ; and

†[] English translation.

(d) whether any decision has been taken to set up a new sub-station in that State?]

सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्रालय और संचार विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आई० के० गुजराल) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में निम्नलिखित प्रसारण केन्द्र और सहायक प्रेषण केन्द्र हैं :—

प्रसारण केन्द्र..... भोपाल और इन्दौर

सहायक केन्द्र..... जबलपुर, रायपुर और ग्वालियर

(ख) सभी सहायक प्रेषण केन्द्र मध्यम शक्ति के हैं।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) जी, हाँ। नए केन्द्र छतरपुर, जगदलपुर और रेवा में स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The following Broadcasting Centres and Auxiliary Transmitting Centres are situated in Madhya Pradesh:—

Broadcasting Centres.... Bhopal and Indore.

Auxiliary Centres..... Jabalpur, Raipur and Gwalior.

(b) All the auxiliary transmitting centres are of medium-power.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Yes, Madam. New stations are proposed to be set up at Chhatarpur, Jagdalpur and Rewa.]

PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGES AT REVISED RATES TO THE WORKERS

380. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction workers in capital have not been paid the revised enhanced minimum wages by most of the Government contractors in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a deputation of the workers met him in this connection; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) There was some delay on part of the contractors in paying enhanced wages as they demanded compensation for extra labour costs on works already in hand. This has since been settled and no concrete cases of non-payment of notified wages have been reported.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a). Instructions have, however, been issued to the concerned officers to ensure that statutory wage rates notified by Government are paid to workers.

SOVIET ASSISTANCE FOR RAISING PRODUCTION OF COTTON, SUGAR AND OILSEEDS

381. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Soviet Union have offered assistance in raising production of cotton, sugar and oilseeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the Soviet offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) The Government of U.S.S.R. had proposed an agreement for mutual cooperation in the field of agricultural research. The revised draft of this agreement which provides, among other things, for exchange of experts, scientific literature, breeding material, and training facilities, etc., is currently under the consideration of the Govt. of U.S.S.R.

Meanwhile, in pursuance of discussions at the level of Ministers and Ambassadors of the two Governments and in particular as a result of the visit of the Union Minister of State for Agriculture to U.S.S.R. during 1969, the Soviet Government offered