

Fund Scheme and the Employees' State Insurance Scheme are administered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation respectively. The position as ascertained from them is as under :—

Employees Provident Fund—The provident fund dues were assessed under section 7A of the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952. Action to prosecute the employer for non-production of the records and failure to pay the contributions and to comply with other statutory requirements in respect of eligible employees has also been initiated.

Employees' State Insurance—The employer has since registered contractors' employees and all direct employees and is complying with the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 in respect of all the covered employees. As regards the contribution for the period for which records were not produced earlier, legal action to recover the dues on *ad hoc* basis, as arrears of land revenues, was initiated. The employer has, however, agreed to produce the records for the earlier period also.

RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS OF DULIAJAN AND DIGBOI

949. SHRI G BARBORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to Starred Question No. 404 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 1968 and state what further steps have been taken by Government towards the recognition of the majority unions in Oil India Ltd, Duliajan and Assam Oil Co., Digboi?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI) : Efforts to persuade the management of Assam Oil Company Digboi to recognise the majority union are continuing. In the case of Oil India Limited, Duliajan one of the unions has refused to participate in the fresh verification proceedings unless verification is done through a secret ballot; the existing procedure, which has been approved by the Standing Labour Committee, provides for verification on the basis of paid membership of trade unions.

950. [Transferred to the 14th December, 1968.]

STOPPAGE OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO NAGALAND BY ASSAM

951. SHRI M. VERO ;

SHRI KRISHAN KANT ;

SHRI D. THENGARI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam stopped from 21st August, 1968 to 4th September, 1968 the movement of food supplies to Nagaland including supplies given to the Government of Nagaland by the Central Government and the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) A report has been called for from the Assam Government. This will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

SUGAR MILLS IN WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH

952. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar mills in Western Uttar Pradesh have not yet started production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the mill-owners are seeking concessions from the Central Government to cover the high cost of sugarcane and competition from gur manufacturers; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) According to the information received up to the 3rd December, 1968, 7 factories, out of 39 in Western Uttar Pradesh had gone into production.