

CIRCUS COMPANIES WITH EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

*843. **SHRI P. K. KUMARAN** : Will the Minister of LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Circus Companies in India, which have introduced Employees' Provident Fund Scheme for their artists and other employees; and

(b) the number of companies which are still not observing Provident Fund rules, and the steps Government propose to take to persuade these companies to introduce the said scheme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) Ten circus establishments have so far been covered under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, of which three are complying with the provisions of the Act and the Scheme framed thereunder while seven are not doing so.

The Regional Provident Fund Commissioners are taking all possible steps—legal and persuasive—to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and Scheme.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Sir, according to my information there are about 49 or 50 circus companies operating in India. May I know, Sir, why they were able to cover only ten ?

SHRI A. D. MANI : Mostly from Malabar.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Sir, the main difficulty appears to be of the roving nature of these circuses; they move from one place to another. The Provident Fund Commissioner is seized of this problem. Some people are trying to dodge him but he is seriously trying to register them and bring as many as possible under the purview of the Act.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : They are of course of roving nature. But the main difficulty is that as soon as a circus company comes to a town all sorts of Government officials approach them, income-tax

authorities and Labour Officers approach them for complimentary tickets and . . .

SHRI A. D. MANI : Dinners.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : . . . other amenities . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : Including M.Ps.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Yes, including M.Ps. The same thing is repeated in the next town. Will the Government take steps to see that these laws are correctly implemented ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Yes, Sir, as I said, we are using both legal and persuasive methods and we will continue doing so.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : May I know, Sir, whether the Government are in receipt of any representation from those employees who are subscribing to this provident fund scheme that the accumulation in the Provident Fund is deposited in the Reserve Bank of India so that they can get a higher rate of interest than what is guaranteed under the scheme ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : That is entirely a different question. How should the funds of the Employees' Provident Fund be invested is a separate question altogether.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN : May I know, Sir, that the previous Labour Minister promised to appoint a commission to go into the whole affair ? Will the Government consider it necessary to appoint such a Commission now to go comprehensively into the whole question especially with a view to improving relations between labour and proprietors so that this important industry which is a heritage of our country is saved ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Sir, I am not aware of the decision that had been taken by the previous Minister of Labour. But the suggestion made by the hon. Member is a good one and we shall look into it.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I have met a number of circus personnel whenever they visit the various town and they feel that wherever such companies contribute to the provident fund that is inadequate and does not cover risks. The contribution to the fund is so inadequate that when they sustain any injury while performing feats they do not get adequate compensation. May I ask the Minister whether he has ever given his mind to this fact of the matter that in the case of circus employees the contribution of the employers should be twice in view of the hazards involved ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Sir, there is a lot in what the hon. has suggested. The nature of their duties, particularly of the artistes who perform, is a hazardous one. But we have to take into consideration the paying capacity of the industry, of the establishment. Many of them are complaining that they are not in a position to pay even this much.

SHRI D. THENGARI : May I know, Sir, the total number of circus employees that are covered by provident fund ? How many employees are not getting provident fund and do the Government propose to take action against such of the circus companies which have refused to introduce provident fund ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : As I have said, there are ten such establishments which have been brought under the purview of the Act, and only three have complied with it. There may be some others who have escaped notice so far. We are trying to bring them to book and those who do not contribute are proceeded against legally and by other methods.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : Sir, the Minister in his reply said that it is a roving industry and it is very difficult for them to get hold of them. May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the question of taking this industry directly under the Central Government as far as the application of laws is concerned ? Another question is that the Minister said that it is a risky job ? Will the Government consider insuring their life in view of this ?

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : L.I.C. does not insure them.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : This is a matter which we will have to examine taking into consideration the question of hazards involved in the insurance. But there is the normal compensation which is paid to any workman when he is injured.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is Rs. 35.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Of course, they do get that. But in view of the special hazardous job they are doing the demand that there should be a special provision is a matter which needs looking into, and we shall examine it.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : The hon. Minister said that legal and persuasive methods have been used to see that compliance is made. May I know, Sir, in how many cases prosecution has been launched against these companies ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We moved for some prosecutions but some of them have gone to the High Courts and the cases are still *sub judice*. That is why we have not been able to proceed with them as vigorously as we would have liked.

एंटीबायोटिक्स प्रोजेक्ट ऋषिकेश से संलग्न टाउनशिप

*844. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी : क्या पेट्रोल तथा रसायन मंत्री 5 अगस्त, 1966 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 385 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एंटीबायोटिक्स प्रोजेक्ट, ऋषिकेश से संलग्न टाउनशिप के निकट बनाया गया नाला इस वरसम्मत में छः बार टूट चुका है और जिसके परिणाम-स्वरूप पानी क्वार्टरों के अन्दर चला गया था; और

(ख) उक्त नाले के निर्माण पर अब तक कुल वित्तना रक्कश खर्च हुआ है ?

†[TOWNSHIP ATTACHED TO ANTIBIOTICS PROJECT, RISHIKESH]

*844. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM

†[] English translation.