

THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether any recommendation to this effect was made by the Estimates Committee?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Not precisely in this respect but they did say that some of the woollen spindles could have been allowed to be converted into shoddy spindles.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that conversion of woollen spindles into shoddy spindles would lead to scarcity of carpet yarn?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Well, that is not so, but we are considering the matter, and *prima facie*, when we have not the foreign exchange for importing either the shoddy or the wool tops, it will not be worth while to allow the interchange, of spinning shoddy by the wool-spinning mills, or to allow the shoddy sector to expand.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is the opinion of the Industrial Adviser to the Textile Commissioner that the adaptation of woollen spindles for spinning shoddy yarn would be a difficult proposition?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Government is one, and whatever the different officers advise is not a matter which we can consider here. There can be different technical opinions by different people.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: May I know, Sir, what the reasons are which led the Government to give permission to these woollen spindles to be converted into shoddy spindles?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: No permission has been granted. The hon. Member drew the attention of the

Government to something which appeared in a newspaper.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COAL, MINES P.F. SCHEME

•298. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enhance the rate of contribution to the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme from 6J to 8 per cent.; if so, from what date; and

(b) for which of the industries, covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, this enhanced rate of contribution will apply?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No date has yet been fixed. The proposal under consideration is to enhance the rate from 6J per cent, to 8 per cent, of the total emoluments.

(b) Under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, the proposal is to enhance the rate of contribution from 6J per cent, to 8 per cent, of basic wages, dearness allowance and retaining allowance, if any, and to apply this rate to the following four industries, in the first instance: —

(i) Cigarettes;

(ii) Electrical, mechanical or general engineering products;

(iii) Iron and Steel; and (iv)

Paper.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: As this question has been under the active consideration of the Government of India for the past five years, why is it that a specific date has not been fixed to enhance this Provident Fund contribution?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Which one, the first or the second?

! DR. A SUBBA RAO: The first.

