

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 6½ to 8½ 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 6½ 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 6½ 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.

**SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:** The hon. Member perhaps knows that it was in April, 1961, that this question was considered by the Industrial Committee on Coal Mines and there, in principle, it was accepted that this should be done. Now the matter is under consultation with the Ministries of Commerce and Finance, and is also under consultation with the Ministry of Mines and Fuel. We hope to do it as soon as possible.

**DR. A. SUBBA RAO:** As regards the other four industries what are the difficulties in raising this Provident Fund contribution?

**SHRI J. S. HATHI:** The other four? Well, that is decided. The question is we shall have to bring forth a Bill.

**SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA:** Is it a fact that for the increase in this Provident Fund contribution from 6½ per cent. to 8½ per cent. the colliery owners have demanded an increase in prices?

**SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:** Well, they have suggested that it may perhaps be necessary; that is being considered.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** How long will it take the Government to fix an exact date for the rate to be enhanced and enforced?

**SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:** An exact date could be fixed when the Act is amended; when the amending Bill is passed.

**DR. A. SUBBA RAO:** The hon. Minister said that raising the price of coal is also being considered. Now, may I know, Sir, whether the committee which is appointed to go into the paying capacity of these industries has recommended that with the present prices they can pay this higher contribution?

**SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:** It is not that the question of raising the prices is considered. The hon. Member asked

whether they have put in this plea and I said that that matter is being considered.

**DEMAND FOR A LUMP SUM GRANT BY THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT**

**\*299. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have asked for any lump sum grant in view of the decision of the Government of India to wind up the Ministry of Rehabilitation;

(b) if so, what is the total amount asked for; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. S. NASKAR):**

(a) The presumption of the hon. Member that a decision has been taken to wind up the Ministry of Rehabilitation is not correct.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Sir, I do not know why I have been accused of making a presumption. As you see here, the question is put in the name of the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply. Previously the questions were addressed to the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation. Well, Sir, I do not think I am out of bounds in this matter.

**SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA:** You see your question; you have assumed that the decision has been taken to wind up the Ministry of Rehabilitation. Well, that is not correct.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** But the Minister has been wound up, it seems; something has been wound up. Previously Mr. Khanna was the Minister for Rehabilitation. Today he comes out as the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, and in the great list of