

Functioning of the Educational Resources Centre

798. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the "Indian Express (New Delhi)" of the 3rd February, 1976, regarding the controversy about the functioning of the Educational Resources Centre of the United States of America in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. This newspaper report was based on a clarification issued by the official in charge of the Educational Resources Centre, New Delhi, following the publication of some misleading reports about the financing of the Centre appearing in the New York press. The ERC operates with the knowledge and approval of the Government of India under the overall supervision of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The purpose of the Centre is to prepare educational source material on India for use by American educational institutions.

(b) Question does not arise.

Outstanding Dues of Employees State Insurance and Provident Fund

799. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what are the dues of Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance Corporation which have not been paid by the Management of Pulgaon Cotton Mills, Pulgaon of District Wardha in Maharashtra;

(b) since when the dues are not paid including employees' share; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to recover the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b) The

Provident Fund Authorities have reported that Pulgaon Cotton Mills is an establishment exempted under section 17(l)(a) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act 1952, with effect from 1-4-1953. An amount of Rs. 22.02 lakhs is in default as on 29-2-76. This default is from November, 1974 onwards. The amount of Rs. 22.02 lakhs includes Rs. 7.04 lakhs on account of employees share from February, 1975 onwards.

According to the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, as on 31-12-1975, the mill is in arrears to the extent of Rs. 5,99,635.31. The default is from December, 1974 onwards. The amount in arrears represents employer's share as well as employees' share,

(c) *Provident Fund Dues*—Show cause notices were issued from time to time and it resulted in a transfer of Rs. 1 lakh only to the Board of Trustees as on 25-3-76. Necessary action for prosecuting the employer under Section 14(2A) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 has been taken by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner Bombay. The State Government is being requested to cancel the exemption granted to it whereafter the action for determining the amounts due and the recovery of the arrears under Section 8 of Act will be considered.

Employee's State Insurance Dues—The employer has been prosecuted twice under Section 85 of the Employees' State Insurance Act. Further prosecution for subsequent default is being launched. Recovery action under Section 45B of the Act for an amount of Rs. 4,87,462.81 has already been taken and action for recovery of Rs. 1,12,172.50 is also under consideration.

Workers' Education Scheme

800. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of the workers education scheme with a view to making it more

effective and useful in the participation of workers in the productive activities; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-GOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) A Committee was appointed by Government to review the Workers' Education Scheme and its report is under examination.

Indo-Pak steps to Combat Malaria

801. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought Pakistan Government's cooperation for a meeting for evolving a joint strategy to deal with the increased incidents of malaria in the border areas of both the countries; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the Government of Pakistan in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS <SHRI BIPINPAL DAS>: (a) Yes, Sir. India had proposed the holding of a meeting in February, but received no reply from the Government of Pakistan. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan once again.

(b) The Government of Pakistan's response is awaited.

Atomic Reactors in Pakistan with - Foreign Aid

802. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has set up Atomic Reactors at Karachi and NWFP with French and U.S. help respectively; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Pakistan has

an operating power reactor at Karachi set up with Canadian assistance, which went into commercial operation in July 1972. According to newspaper reports, Pakistan proposes to build its second reactor at Chashma, which is expected to become operational around 1983. No announcement has so far been made in regard to the foreign collaborator in this project.

(b) The Government of India has consistently stood for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

Minor Ports in Maharashtra

803. SHRI GULABRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of grant sanctioned during the last three years to Maharashtra Government for the development of minor ports in that State; and

(b) The amount of grant proposed to be given to that Government for the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON):

(a) Central assistance in the form of loans is given to State Governments for development of selected minor ports under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Fourth Plan. The following loans were sanctioned in favour of the Maharashtra Government in the last 3 years for the development of Mirya Bay which was covered under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
1972-73	18.00
1973-74	3.00
1974-75	12.00

(b) The amount provided in the draft Fifth Plan for the development of minor ports under Centrally Sponsored Schemes is only to meet the spill over expenditure for the schemes sanctioned in the Fourth Plan. No loan assistance is proposed to be given to Maharashtra State during the year 1976-77 since the entire sanctioned amount of Rs. 107 lakhs earmarked for Mirya Bay development was released by 1974-75.