

administered by the State Governments. A few States like Delhi, Chhattisgarh have enacted legislation for regulation of Private Placement Agencies. V. V. Giri National Labour Institute has brought out a report which has assessed the functioning of private placement agencies. One of the recommendations of the study was the need for having a legislation for regulation of private placement agencies.

**Pledging of PF for buying low cost houses**

3124. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that EPFO may introduce a scheme to allow its over four crore subscribers to pledge their Provident Fund to buy low cost houses and use the account to pay equated monthly instalments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposal has been before the EPFO Trustee meeting held recently; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken. As per the extant provisions of Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, members can withdraw from the Fund for purchase of dwelling house/flat. Besides, monthly installments for repayment of loans from the amounts standing to the credit of the member may also be paid on behalf of the member to the Government or housing agency concerned.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the Question above.

**Shortage of staff in ESI hospitals**

3125. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ESI hospitals in Telangana are running with shortage of staff which is leading to crisis in services to the beneficiaries in the ESI hospitals, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by Government to evaluate the present State of affairs, if so, the details thereof; and