

18th November, 1960, as the grant of any retrospective effect would have created difficulties in regard to employees who had already retired from service. Such persons would have been required to refund the Government share of contribution together with interest thereon to their Contributory Provident Fund Accounts, in case they had chosen to be governed by the Liberalised Pension Rules in place of the Contributory Provident Fund Rules which were, otherwise, applicable to them.

**१९६२ के ग्राम चुनावों की तिथियां**

\*२१८. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या विधि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि निर्वाचन आयोग ने अगले ग्राम चुनावों के लिए तिथियों का निश्चय कर लिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका व्योरा क्या है ;

**विधि उपमंत्री (श्री हजारनबीस) :**

(क) और (ख). निर्वाचन आयोग ने आगामी ग्राम चुनाव के कार्यक्रम के बारे में कोई अन्तिम निर्णय नहीं किया है किन्तु सभी परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए आयोग अस्थायी रूप से इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश और कुल्लू सब डिवीजन वाले बर्फीले क्षेत्रों को छोड़ कर, जहां कि मतदान अप्रैल, १९६२ में किसी समय सम्भव होगा, अन्य सभी जगह, निर्वाचन प्रयोजन के लिये सबसे सुविधाजनक समय फरवरी, १९६२ का अन्तिम सप्ताह होगा ।

**Lady Teachers in a Delhi School**

\*219. **Shri Nagi Reddy:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a letter appearing in *Statesman*, Delhi on the 19th July, 1961 about employment of lady teachers by a school in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the complaints;

(c) the steps taken in the matter;

(d) whether any financial assistance is given to this school; and

(e) if so, the amount?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Director of Education, Delhi has been asked to look into the complaint.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The grant is paid under the grant-in-aid rules and the amount varies from year to year.

**U.K. Bank Rates**

\*220. { **Shri M. B. Thakore:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bank rate in the U.K. has been increased by 2 per cent. as announced by the Chancellor of Exchequer on the 24th July, 1961; and

(b) if so, the effect on interest on loans which will be taken from the U.K. for Third Five Year Plan?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha):** (a) The U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on the 25th July, 1961, the raising of the British Bank Rate from 5 per cent. to 7 per cent. with effect from the 26th July, 1961.

(b) There may be some increase in the rates of interest payable on the loans which India will receive from the U.K. for the Third Five Year Plan, so long as the bank rate is not reduced.

**World Children's Festival, Moscow**

\*221. **Shri Ramji Verma:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had participated in the World Chil-

dren's Festival held in Moscow on July 22nd, 1961;

(b) how many delegates participated in this Festival on behalf of India and who made the selection of this Delegation and what criterion was laid in selecting the delegates;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only delegates from Delhi were selected and other States were not represented; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) to (d). We have no information about this Festival apart from what appeared in the Press.

#### Shortage of Billets

\*222. {  
 Shri B. C. Mullick:  
 Shri P. G. Deb:  
 Maharajkumar Vijaya  
 Ananda:  
 Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 Shri Jinachandran:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of billets has affected the production of re-rolling mills in Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Madras, U.P. and West Bengal;

(b) what is the estimated loss in production; and

(c) what steps have been taken to provide necessary billets to these re-rolling mills?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) to (c). Billets supplies from the integrated steel works were affected during the months of May and June, 1961. This was partly due to the conversion of more of the available steel into urgently required products like rails and partly due to periodical overhauls to rolling mills which are taken up from time to time. Supplies have improved since.

I should, however, state that supplies of billets will not in future be as plentiful as it was during the year 1960. Inconvenient and relatively uneconomic as it is for integrated steel works to produce billets for sale, it was provided in the Second Plan that from towards the end of the Plan the integrated steel works would make available 630,000 tons of billets a year to the re-rolling industry. The year 1960 was however one of relative plenty from the point of view of availability of billets. The main reason for this was that the finishing mills in the integrated steel works in Bhilai and Durgapur had not come into regular production. With the commissioning of the finishing mills, more and more of billets are now being used within the integrated steel works and from now on it is unlikely that the re-rolling industry will receive from the integrated steel works very much more than what had been originally planned—about 50,000 to 60,000 tons of billets a month.

As Hon'ble Members know, in the programme of development of the steel industry in the Third Plan, it is envisaged that the integrated steel works will, after expansion, supply an additional about 350,000 tons of billets a year. Of this, about 150,000 tons will go to new re-rolling mills which are being allowed to be put up in relatively unserved areas. The balance will be used to augment supplies to existing re-rolling mills.

#### Beggars in Delhi

\*223. {  
 Shrimati Ja Palchoudhuri:  
 Shri Assar:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Hem Raj:  
 Shri K. B. Malvia:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 211 on the 22nd February, 1961 and state:

(a) the number of beggars arrested in Delhi since the Bombay Pre-