

to the individuals concerned with minor objections in the Regional office, Bihar under the Employees Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons they were kept pending for such a long time in the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Bihar; and

(c) the reasons why proper action is not taken in time and the erring officials not taken to ask?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): The Employees' Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:—

(a) No. Only 4 per cent of the Bills were returned for rectification.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Proposal for a Steel Plant at Chandrapur in Maharashtra:

2556. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTK-HINDE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of erecting a steel plant in Chandrapur District in Maharashtra was discussed by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra with the Prime Minister during her visit to that State;

(b) whether it was suggested by the Chief Minister that it would be convenient, advantageous and beneficial to erect such a plant in the said district; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Chief Minister, Maharashtra, had, however, written to the Prime Minister in January, 1973 regarding the setting up of an integrated steel plant in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra.

(c) The locational advantages of Chandrapur District as also of other suitable sites in the country will be kept in view while drawing up the programme for techno-economic studies to be taken up in connection with the long-term plan for steel development.

Implementation of the Recommendations of Coal Mines Wage Board

2557. SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Coal Mines Wage Board about injury leave and alternative light employment for the disabled workmen have since been implemented in full;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c). The recommendation on injury leave was considered by the Industrial Committee on Coal Mines, as desired by the Wage Board. The employers' representatives indicated that they did not have the financial capacity to bear the additional burden involved. The question about alternative higher employment for disabled workmen did not also fall within the terms of reference of the Wage Board. Nonetheless the recommendations have been commended on 28th December and 19th September, 1972 respectively to the employers for adoption.

Scheme to strengthen the Directorate General of Mines Safety

2558. SHRI R. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to strengthen the Directorate General of