

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) A sum of Rs. 20.20 crores was outstanding against unexempted establishments as on the 30th June, 1978. Another sum of Rs. 11.03 crores was due to be transferred by the exempted establishments to their boards of trustees.

(b) 81,097 prosecution cases and 82,434 Revenue Recovery cases were filed under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and 721 criminal cases under the Indian Penal Code were filed upto the 30th June, 1978.

(c) A sum of Rs. 851.37 lakhs was outstanding as on 30th June, 1978.

(d) A proposal to amend the Act to empower the Provident Fund Organisation to effect recoveries is under consideration by Government.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Middle East countries

1659. **SHRI RUDOLPH RODRIGUES:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what schemes, if any, are proposed or underway by the Government of India for collaboration with Middle East States for setting up steel plants in the countries concerned; and

(b) the details of such proposed schemes with particular reference to estimates of costs and production and sale of end products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b). There are no specific proposals for collaboration with Middle Eastern Countries for setting up steel plants. However, an offer for doing the consultancy work for setting up a steel plant in Syria will be submitted by MECON in the beginning of December, 1978. Besides, there have been some discussions with United Arab Emirates authorities on the pos-

sibility of India setting up a sponge iron plant in Abu Dhabi, but it would ultimately depend upon the viability of the project after the techno-economic studies have been completed by MECON. The estimates of costs, production and sale of end-products will also become known on receipt of the above report from MECON. One of the alternatives under discussion includes conversion of part of the sponge iron into steel products.

Aluminium Industry for Chhotanagpur

1660. **SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of opening Aluminium industry in the Chhotanagpur area of Bihar as there are huge deposits of bauxite and the coming power projects will be able to meet the requirement of power and all the old leases will be cancelled and reserved for that industry; and

(b) if not, what are the steps that the centre is going to take to save Chhotanagpur area from exploitation from outsiders who are making the Biharis poor day by day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Exploitation of minerals is undertaken by different agencies—Central, State as well as private—taking into consideration the country's requirements as a whole and within the framework of the Five Year Plans.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में औषधालय

1661. **श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया :** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार चालू वर्ष के दौरान पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में कोई नया औषधालय खोलने का है;