

the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :

(a) The information as on 31-3-71 is not readily available. A Statement showing the region-wise number of claim applications pending as on 31-12-70 in respect of the members of the Statutory Fund is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library See. No. LT-575/71*].

(b) No. The claims received, complete in all respects are generally passed for payment within 10 to 15 days of their receipt in the Regional Offices. As passing of claims involves payment of huge amounts, proper scrutiny and due care are required to be exercised to avoid over/wrong payment.

(c) The information as on 31-3-71 is not readily available. A statement showing the region-wise number of cases pertaining to transfer of accounts pending as on 31-12-70 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See. No. LT-575/71*]. The main reasons for delay in the transfer of accounts from one region to other are :

- (i) non or incomplete receipt of the prescribed form;
- (ii) long correspondence undertaken with the various parties concerned eliciting additional information mostly to trace the credit entry; and
- (iii) delay in effecting transfer of amounts on the basis of the transfer advices issued by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners by the various branches of the State Bank of India.

Recently orders have been issued for transferring provident fund accumulations from one Regional office to another by a crossed cheque/demand draft drawn in favour of the receiving region. This measure has started yielding fruitful results.

#### Distribution of Ammonia Sulphate to Tea Plantations

3666. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Ammonia Sulphate distributed for the tea plantations during the period April-June, 1971; and

(b) the agencies through which it was distributed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) During April-June, 1971, a quantity of 19236 tonnes of Ammonia Sulphate has been distributed to Tea Plantations.

(b) The Central Fertiliser Pool has distributed imported Ammonium Sulphate through Food Corporation of India and Central/State Warehousing Corporations. Fertiliser Corporation of India and Hindustan Steel Corporation have distributed Ammonium Sulphate produced by them through their distributors, and Fertiliser Chemicals Travancore Limited have supplied the material direct.

#### Interest Free Loan to Mannam Sugar Mill Limited, Kerala

3667. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have under consideration any proposal to give an interest free loan to Mannam Sugar Mill Cooperative Limited, Pondalam in Kerala State to enable the concern to clear its dues to the Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Life Insurance Corporation; and