

any such liberalisation in the Investment Pattern would disturb the plan resources and allocations as worked out for the entire plan period.

**Article "Provident Fund or Fund for Officials" published in the Weekly "The Coalfield Times"**

699. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5064 on the 4th May, 1972 and state:—

(a) whether Government has investigated, in consultation with the Coal Mines Provident Fund Commissioner, the grievances as stated in an article 'Provident Fund or Fund for officials' published in the weekly 'The Coalfield Times' published from Dhanbad, Bihar;

(b) if so, at what stage the investigation is and the time it will take to complete the same; and

(c) if completed, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) to (c). The matter was examined in consultation with the Coal Mines Provident Fund Commissioner and it has been decided to have an enquiry made into certain allegations by a senior officer from outside the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation. The concerned officer has been asked to submit his report within 2 months.

**Employees' Provident Fund Office, Trivandrum**

700. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government has received any complaint or representation regarding the functioning of Employees Provident Fund office in Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the contents thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) A representation addressed by the Neelampathi Estates Labour Congress,

Kerala complaining in general terms about unsatisfactory working of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme in the office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kerala was received.

(b) The complaints attributed the state of affairs to the office being unwieldy and suggested (i) decentralisation of the working of the scheme; (ii) constitution of advisory boards for each region; and (iii) closer contact between Inspectors and members of establishments.

(c) (i) A proposal for opening of a sub-Regional office at Trichur is being placed before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund at its meeting to be held on the 4th August, 1972.

(ii) A Regional Committee is already functioning in the Kerala State. It consists of representatives of labour, employers and the State Government.

(iii) Instructions exist that Inspectors should contact representative unions etc. at the time of their visits and inspections.

**Distribution of Steel Products by Hindustan Steel Ltd. and Steel Plants in Private Sector**

701. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines laid down for the distribution of steel products by the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and the two Steel Plants in the Private sector to the stockists and traders;

(b) the percentage of total end-products category-wise by the Steel Plants both in the private and public sectors which can be made available to the trade from the producers' stock-yards; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent black-marketing by the trade of steel thus supplied to them by the producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) In view of the shortage most of the available production is despatched to actual consumers and only a small percentage of production is despatched on zonal basis to traders and stockists in chronological order of booking of orders by the main producers.

In pursuance of the recommendation of Qureshi Committee, it has been decided to earmark 50% of the allocations to trade for despatch against new orders and the balance 50% for despatch against earlier orders. For this purpose the new orders would mean those which have been issued to traders with the two years lapse clause.

(b) There is no fixed percentage of materials to be supplied by the main producers' stockyards to traders. It depends on factors like availability and volume of priority requirements for each category and quantity. Materials left over after meeting higher priority demands, and materials not lifted by other allottees within stipulated periods, are sold to trade subject to the conditions laid down by the Joint Plant Committee in the Stockyards distribution procedure.

(c) There is no price control on the quantities given to trade for resale purposes. However, only a very small percentage of available steel is allotted to trade.

#### Direct sale of Billets by Steel Re-Rollers

702. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the steel re-rollers are permitted to sell the billets and other products to the trade and stockists direct;

(b) the quota fixed by Government for such sales by the re-rollers in case of steel produced from scrap if so, what; and

(c) the measures devised by Government to prevent the black-marketing of steel by the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Billets Re-rollers are not permitted to sell billets. They are to sell finished products as per the approved rolling programmes and the allocations made by the Billet Re-rollers Committee. Billet Re-Rollers are not permitted to sell the products rolled out of the billets supplied to them to the trade direct. 25% of their production is, however channelled through the main producers' stockyards. Out of this 40% is allocated to trade through the main producers' stockyards.

(b) Out of about two lakh tonnes of used rails being made available by the Railways, about 1,50,000 tonnes are being supplied to Scrap-Re-Rollers on the condition that the re-rolled products will be placed at the disposal of the stockyards of the main producers. There is no control on the scrap Re-Rollers in respect of sale of steel produced from scrap and electric furnace ingots.

(c) There is no control on the price at which materials, given to traders for resale purposes, are sold by them. The quantity of steel going to trade are, however, insignificant in comparison to the quantities given to actual consumers direct.

#### Chinese base in Sri Lanka

703. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: SHRI MUHAMMED SHE-RIFF:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Sri Lanka having agreed to allow the Chinese to build a base in that country in the Indian Ocean which is likely to disturb the neutrality of the zone; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No such agreement has come to the notice of Government. A Press Release dated 20th July, 1972, issued by the High Commission for the Republic of Sri Lanka in Delhi denies reports of Sri Lanka having agreed to such an arrangement.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Expenditure on maintenance of camps for East Bengal Refugees

704. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure to-date on the maintenance of Camps for East Bengal refugees;

(b) whether all the refugees have since been repatriated, if not, the number still awaiting repatriation;