

problems, such as high call failure rate, increased maintenance efforts, high costs, etc. Improvements in all these areas have also been effected.

#### Appointment of Fertilizer Distributors

435. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman of Hindustan Steel Limited received a representation from Members of Parliament through Deputy Minister of Steel and Mines in July, 1973 regarding undue postponement of cases of educated unemployed for appointment; as fertilizers distributors and mismanagement in Fertilizers and Chemicals Division; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Hindustan Steel Limited has reported that a communication from some Members of Parliament had been received by them in 1973 regarding the appointment of a particular firm stated to consist of unemployed graduates as a distributor for the fertilizers produced by Hindustan Steel Limited.

(b) The firm in question was not found suitable for appointment as a wholesale dealer by Hindustan Steel Limited. This is a matter to be decided entirely by Hindustan Steel Limited in accordance with their policy and requirements.

#### Disbursement of Compensation to Indians Repatriated from Uganda

436. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to disbursement of compensation to former Uganda resident Indians;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the number of claimants and the amount disbursed by the end of February, 1976 if any?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The amount received from the Uganda Government is being transferred to the account of the Uganda Compensation Settlement Officer, Bombay. The Uganda Compensation Settlement Office was opened on the 18th February, 1976. The procedure for disbursement has also been determined and, through a press note, Indian national claimants have been advised to contact this Office. The Settlement Officer will check the identity of the applicants and thereafter the process of disbursement will be started.

#### Marketing of H.S.L. Fertilizers

437. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Hindustan Steel Limited (Fertilizers and Chemicals Division) has formulated schemes for implementation of 20-point Economic Programme, by giving preference to educated unemployed for rehabilitation in fertilizers marketing?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): No, Sir. Hindustan Steel Limited only appoints wholesalers and this is done on the basis of their financial standing, experience etc. and therefore any question of giving preference to educated unemployed does not arise.

#### Review of abolition of Bonded Labour

438. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress made in regard to implementation of abolition of

bonded labour in various States and Union Territories;

(b) If so, what are the main findings of the review;

(c) further action proposed for abolition and rehabilitation of bonded labour;

(d) whether any survey of bonded labour is proposed to be undertaken by the Labour Bureau to assess the magnitude and nature of the problems in various States to facilitate suitable action; and

(e) if so, the features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A statement is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-10417/76.]

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Demand of Indian Federation of Working Journalists for interim relief**

439. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Working Journalists have pleaded to the Wage Board to consider the demand for interim relief at 33 per cent of basic wages;

(b) if so, whether Government have directed the Wage Board to consider the issue of grant of interim relief;

(c) whether any time limit has been indicated to decide about interim relief, and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Demands for grant of interim relief have been received from various organisations.

(b) Government have requested the Wage Board to furnish its views in the matter.

(c) and (d). No time limit has been fixed but the Board has been requested to give its views as early as possible.

**Hospital ship for the medicare of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

440. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revive the proposal for a hospital ship for the medicare of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Arrears of Employees' Provident Fund**

441. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Employees' Provident Fund arrears as on 1st March, 1976; and

(b) the steps taken to realise the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under:—

(a) Information regarding arrears of provident fund as on 1-3-1976 is not available. However, as on 31-12-1975, the arrears of provident fund contributions were Rs. 2033.97 lakhs.

(b) Prosecutions are launched, revenue recovery proceedings are initiated and penal damages are levied on the defaulting employers in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. During 1973-74, 5164 prosecutions were launched and 3794