

after expiry of a period of 4 years. Such transfers are effected on the basis of annual review.

Mining Finance Corporation

2275. Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Mines** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the **Mineral Ores Export Advisory Committee** has recommended for the setting up of a **Mining Finance Corporation** for the development of mines;

(b) the other recommendations made by the Committee at its recent meeting; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) It is understood that a suggestion for the setting up of a **Mining Finance Corporation** etc. came up for general discussion at the last meeting of the **Mineral Ores Export Advisory Committee** held on 22-11-1965. However, a recommendation of the Committee in this regard has not yet been submitted to Government.

(b) The proceedings of the Committee containing other recommendations have also not been received by Government so far.

(c) Does not arise.

Pay Scale of Passenger Guides on the Railways

2276. Shri Kishen Pattnayak: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the present pay scale of the **Passenger Guides on the Various Railways;**

(b) whether there was a higher pay scale before 1955 and whether any appointments had been made prior to

1955 in the scale of Rs. 100 to Rs. 185 or Rs. 150 to Rs. 225; and

(c) if so, the reasons for lowering it and whether it has adversely affected the promotion position of the **Passenger Guides** appointed before 1955?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Smbhag Singh): (a) Rs. 110-4-150-EB-4-170-5-180-EB-5-200 (Authorised)/Rs. 60-150 (Prescribed).

(b) and (c). The scale Rs. 100-185 had been prescribed in the year 1948 when the scheme of recruiting **Social Guides** from **Social Service Organisations** to help third Class **Passengers** was introduced purely as an experimental measure. Since the working of the scheme by social workers did not bring in desired results, it was decided to re-designate the posts as '**Passengers Guides**' and to fill them from **Railway servants** having necessary railway background and scale of Rs. 60-150 was allotted to this category on the basis of worth of charge. The then existing social guides who were found fit and eligible were retained as **Passenger Guides** in prescribed scale of Rs. 60-150 but were allowed their higher grades as personal to them. Since February, 1962 they have been allowed seniority in their respective personal grades below **Ticket Collectors** in the same grades for the purpose of advancement. Thus their chances of promotion has not been affected adversely.

Passenger Guides in Khurda Division

2277. Shri Kishen Pattnayak: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the **Passenger Guides** in the **Khurda division** of the **South Eastern Railway** are not being allowed weekly holiday for the last nine years; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to pay them overtime allowance as compensation for the days they have worked extra?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta

2278. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., with its Head Office in Calcutta, has a virtual monopoly in India, and if so, to what extent;

(b) the amount of foreign capital invested in it and the percentage of its shares held by M/s. British Oxygen Ltd. of the U.K.;

(c) whether it has had since 1957 any expansion schemes and what they are; and

(d) if so, whether such schemes were approved by the Central Government?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd. are virtually the only manufacturers of Argon, Nitrous Oxide and gas cutting and welding equipment in the country. In the field of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene and Nitrogen there has been some decrease in the share of this firm in the country's total production but still they account for a substantial portion of country's total production for these gases. So far as welding electrodes and Hydrogen are concerned, units other than M/s Indian Oxygen, account for a major portion of country's production.

(b) The percentage of shareholding of M/s British Oxygen Co. Ltd., U.K. in the capital of M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., is approximately 67.7 per cent. The shareholding of other non-residents is not significant.

(c) and (d). Since 1957 Government have approved firm's proposals

for expansion of their capacities for the manufacture of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene etc. at Bombay, Visakhapatnam, Jamshedpur, Burnpur, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and Ahmedabad. Government have also approved the firm's proposals for expansion of their capacity for the manufacture of Gas Cutting and Welding Equipment and Continuous Special Electrodes at Calcutta and Mild Steel Electrodes at Madras.

Production of Steel Armour for Tanks

2279. Shri Yudhvir Singh:

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavaia:

Shri Bado:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel armour for tanks has been started in Rourkela; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Transformers and Capacitors

2280. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 203 on the 5th November, 1965 and state:

(a) the names of the members of the Committee appointed by the Central Government to consider and recommend the scheme of the Punjab Government to set up a new unit at Nangal for the manufacture of transformers and capacitors; and

(b) when the Committee will submit its recommendations?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) and (b). No Committee has been set up by the Government to