

that retail outlets can be established in this area ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will get a special survey conducted in the district of Bastar and whatever requirement will come to the notice, that will be included in this year's marketing plan.

[*English*]

Pending Cases of Settlement of Terminal Benefits in Public Sector Companies

*387. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending with the public sector companies, of gratuity, provident fund, etc. of in-service employees and former employees;

(b) the time prescribed for the settlement of these cases;

(c) the number of cases where such claims have not been settled and employees have died; and

(d) the action taken to expedite such claims ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (d). Settlement of provident fund and gratuity dues is the normal and routine function of the Public Sector Enterprises. Government has no information on pending cases. Gratuity payments are to be made within one month of their becoming due. As per executive instructions provident fund claims are to be settled within 20 days of their receipt provided they are complete in all respect.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : The Minister says that the Government has no information about pending cases. This is a very strange reply. I do not know how the Government is going to monitor whether executive instructions regarding provident fund and gratuity are being carried out or not.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : This is a mandatory function of the public undertakings. They have to pay it. Otherwise, the Commissioner of Provident Fund will prosecute them. There are 22 lakh workers

and 225 public undertakings. How can Government monitor all these things ?

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Are you aware that these executive instructions are not being followed. If they are not being followed, what are you going to do about?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Till today not even a single complaint was received by the Government regarding this.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Bombay is a big city of these public sector undertakings. And about 30 mills Government has taken over. I can give you the names of the public sector mills where the provident fund has not been paid. One is India United Mill. They have not paid provident fund for the last one or two years. I have given about hundreds of notes. How is the reply given here ? I am, therefore, putting the question. Will the Minister look into it ? The provident fund and gratuity are the terminal benefits which the workers should get, forget about the sick units. Will the Government look into the working of these mills ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : I request the hon. Member to send us the names of such defaulting mills. Then I will look into it.

Drugs Prices

*389. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK†** :

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Drug Price Revision a Non-Starter" appearing in the 'Economic Times' of 21 January, 1988;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government are yet to notify the amendment on trade margin based on the agreement reached between the drug industry and trade in December last; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and when the Government propose to notify the amendment ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It has been decided to allow a trade margin of 16% to the Retailers on the sale of indigenously manufactured price