

There is no proposal at present to grant productivity-linked bonus to the generality of Central Government employees.

Public Distribution System

*77. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, have been or are being taken to set up an effective public distribution system in the country;

(b) outcome of the steps taken so far in physical and financial terms;

(c) names of items which are currently being supplied through the public distribution system;

(d) quantity supplied per head per week; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied with the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) and (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Information is being collected from the various State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

Statement

(a) to (c) and (e). The public distribution system in the country has been reviewed from time to time in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned Ministries of the Central Government. The State Governments were requested to take steps for strengthening the public distribution system by enlarging the coverage by increasing the retail outlets so that people in remote and in-

accessible areas and areas inhabited by weaker sections of the society are efficiently served. Between January, 1980 and the end of October, 1980 31,000 additional retail outlets of the public distribution system have been opened in the country. State Governments have been advised to nominate agencies such as Civil Supplies Corporations or Cooperative Consumers Marketing Federations for lifting of essential commodities allotted by the Centre and supplying them to the retail outlets. Central Government has also advised to State Governments to constitute committees of the representatives of the people at various levels to keep watch over the functioning of the public distribution system. Periodical review of the availability and distribution of essential commodities is being undertaken by the Union Government and corrective measures taken, wherever necessary.

At present cereals such as wheat and rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, controlled cloth, exercise books, match boxes, tea and coffee have been recommended for sale through the public distribution system.

Vijaynagar Steelplant

*78. SHRI R. Y. GHORPADE:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Vijaynagar Steel Plant is located right at the iron ore mine;

(b) whether the limestone, dolomite and manganese ore requirements can be supplied from nearby sources in the Karnataka State itself;

(c) if so, do these advantages place the project in a more favourable