

SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Negotiations are being conducted with the G. D. R. Suppliers to expand the scope of the Protocol and the outcome thereof is awaited.

**Report of Expert Committee to enquire into testing of RS-09 Tractors at Bu 'n'**

\*1000. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 570 on the 27th May, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the report of the Committee of Experts set up to enquire into the testing of RS-09 tractors at Budni has since been examined ;

(b) if so, the main findings of this Committee and its recommendations ; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) The Report is under examination.

(b) A copy of the Report of the Committee of Experts will be placed on the Table of the Sabha shortly.

(c) Necessary action will be taken in the matter after the examination of the report is completed.

**Inclusion of Workers' Nominees in Board of Hindustan Steel Ltd.**

\*1001. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's decision to include workers' nominee in the Board of Hindustan Steel Ltd. has created any favourable change in Labour-Management relations in the Steel Plants under the Hindustan Steel Limited ;

(b) whether the criteria for the representation of workers' nominee has been settled ; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The decision of Government to appoint two representatives of the workers on the Board of Directors of Hindustan Steel Ltd. was announced by the Minister of Steel and Mines in a statement made in Parliament on the 14th June, 1971. An assessment of its impact on the labour-management relations in the Steel Plants under Hindustan Steel Ltd. can be made only after the decision has been implemented.

(b) and (c). The workers' representatives on the Joint Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry have been requested to send their suggestions for the implementation of the decision. These are awaited.

**इस्पात वितरण संबंधी नीति में परिवर्तन**

\*1005. श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ उद्योगपतियों ने सरकार की इस्पात वितरण सम्बन्धी नीति में कतिपय प्रक्रिया संबंधी कठिनाइयों के कारण उसकी आलोचना की है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार का विचार गोदामों के जरिये इस्पात का वितरण करने की नीति में कुछ परिवर्तन करने का है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खान) : (क) उपभोक्ताओं तथा कुछ सस्थाओं से वर्तमान वितरण प्रणाली (स्टाकयाडों की मापतः इस्पात का वितरण भी सम्मिलित है) में प्रक्रियात्मक कठिनाइयों के बारे में यदा-कदा शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं। कार्यप्रणाली को दोषरहित बनाने के उद्देश्य से हाल में कुछ संशोधन किए गये हैं और इन संशोधनों का व्यापक स्वागत हुआ है।

(ख) ऐसी शिकायतों की छान-बीन करने के लिए लोहा और इस्पात नियंत्रक के कार्यालय में एक मूल्यांकन स्कन्ध भी स्थापित किया गया है। लोहा और इस्पात नियंत्रक के क्षेत्रीय

कार्यालय भी खोले गये हैं। इन कार्यालयों का एक काम यह सुनिश्चित करना भी है कि स्टाकपाइलों से माल का वितरण निर्धारित प्रणाली के अनुसार किया जाय।

**Setting up of Nickel Smelter and Lead Smelter in Orissa**

\*1006. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Government have submitted its proposal to set up a nickel smelter and a lead smelter in Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the time by which licence will be given for starting these two plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

**Air-Conditioned Rail Transport for Despatch of Fish**

\*1007. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up the question of providing air-conditioned rail transport to facilitate transport of fish without spoilage to interior places ;

(b) whether there is any arrangement to transport fish landed in Kerala coast to interior places in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Introduction of refrigerated rail transport was taken up by this Ministry in 1959. 9 vans are now operating between Palasa and Howrah, Calicut and Madras and Veraval and Delhi. 3 vans are now under construction and are expected to be delivered during 1971-72. Orders have been placed for 6 more vans.

(b) There is a bi-weekly refrigerated rail van service between Calicut and Madras,

but rail transport of fish from Kerala is mostly in the form of parcel traffic. The fish is iced for preservation. In addition, substantial quantities of iced fish are transported by road vans to various internal areas such as Coorg, Bangalore and Nilgiris.

**Gratuity for Employees Provident Fund Organisation Employees**

\*1008. SHRI R. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in other autonomous bodies, there is provision for contributory Provident Fund-cum-Gratuity and Family Pension-cum-Gratuity benefits to their employees whereas in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, there is family pension-cum-gratuity or contributory Provident Fund benefits to the employees ;

(b) if so, the reasons for discrimination to the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation in so far as the employees, who have opted for Contributory Provident Fund, are not being given benefit of Gratuity as well ; and

(c) the steps contemplated to remove this disparity ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act and is not the direct concern of the Government. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :-

(a) Other autonomous bodies have their own rules not all of which are on any single pattern. The employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation who joined service prior to 1-4-1960 were extended the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund but they were given an option to be covered by the Pension-cum-gratuity benefits instead of the Contributory Provident Fund benefit. Those appointed from 1-4-1960 onwards are compulsorily covered by the Liberalised Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme and the Family Pension Scheme as admissible to the corres-