

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-