

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-

ponding Central Government employees from time to time.

(b) and (c). In the circumstances stated above, the question of discrimination or disparity does not arise.

**Scheme for Nationalisation of Sugar Industry in Tamil Nadu**

\*1009. SHRI BHUVARAHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have sent any concrete scheme for nationalisation of sugar industry in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Central Government in this regard ; and

(c) the percentage of the total production of sugar in Tamil Nadu, both in private and public (co-operative sugar mills) sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Private sugar mills have contributed 69.1 per cent. and the co-operative sugar mills 30.9 per cent in the total sugar production of 2.69 lakh tonnes of Tamil Nadu sugar mills during 1970-71 upto 22nd June, 1971.

**Price of Vanaspati**

\*1010. SHRI C. CHITTIBABU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a downward tendency in edible oils ; and

(b) if so, whether the controlled rates of vanaspati will also be reduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reduction in oil prices in any zone is reflected in an appropriate reduction either in vanaspati prices in that zone, or in the level of incorporation of soybean oil by the factories

in that zone, or both. Consequent on the recent fall in oil prices, incorporation of soybean oil has been discontinued in all zones and, in addition, vanaspati prices in the South zone were reduced by 20 paise per kg. on the 23rd June 1971.

**Integrated Regional Development Corporation for Exploitation of Water and Forest Resources for Agricultural Development**

\*1011. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish an Integrated Regional Development Corporation for areas like the Western Ghats, Himalayan region, Brahmaputra, and other regions to exploit all their water and forest resources for agricultural development and allied industry ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Accumulation of structural Steel Cuttings in Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur**

\*1012. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur has accumulated a huge stock of structural Steel cuttings of different sizes ;

(b) whether these cuttings are being used as melting scrap at the plant ;

(c) whether these structural cuttings are much costlier than melting scrap obtainable from the market or from other plants ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to avoid unnecessary expenditure being incurred on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) About 1500 tonnes of structural steel cuttings of different