

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the judgement given by the Supreme Court on the 1st April, 1971 on the appeal by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh about the applicability of Provident Fund Rules; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANIRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The implications of the judgement are being examined.

Measures to Increase Production of Steel in Public Sector Steel Plants

*98. SHRI P GANGADEB :
SHRI R. S. PANDEY ;
SHRI SAMINATHAN ;

Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) : be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering certain immediate measures to increase the steel production in the public sector steel plants to meet the shortage of steel ; and

(b) if so, what are those measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Steel Limited expect that, subject to satisfactory industrial relations, production of steel from their steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur in 1971-72 would exceed the actual production in 1970-71 by nearly 10 million tonnes of steel ingots. Towards this end, they are taking all necessary measures which include: organisation of maintenance programmes for enhancement of equipment availability, speeding up major capital programmes so as to correct existing imbalance in production facilities, procurement of raw materials,

essential spares, refractories, locomotives and introduction of technological improvements etc. For this, a three-year rolling plan is being prepared for each plant and the organisation is being geared to attain the production targets for 1971-72.

A 'Task Force' has been constituted in the Ministry to evaluate performance every month, to deal with problem areas effectively and to ensure proper implementation of the various decisions taken.

Strike in Durgapur Steel Plant

*99. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any strike in the Durgapur Steel Plant during the last six months ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike ;

(c) the man-hours lost during the strike period and the financial loss suffered consequently ; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the employees concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

The workers of the Durgapur Steel Plant observed three general strikes during the last six months from November, 1970 to April, 1971. On 8.12.1970, the workers observed Bangla Bandh for 24 hours in response to a call made by some political parties on the following issues :—

- (i) Soaring prices of commodities ;
- (ii) Withdrawal of Central Industrial Security Force and Central Reserve Police for alleged atrocities committed by police.
- (iii) Immediate mid-term Election in the State.

On 22.2.1971, another Bangla Bundh was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of late Shri Hemantakumar Bose, President of the All-India Forward Bloc Party who was fatally stabbed in Calcutta on 20.2.1971. February 22, 1971 was declared as a public holiday by the State Government.

The Third Bangla Bundh was observed on 31.3.1971 on a Call given by political parties in the State against repressive measures in East Bengal.

Besides the above general strikes, there were several instances of stoppage of work by the workers without notice, to press their demands regarding manning, upgradation of posts, etc.

Famine Areas

*100. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the States where famine areas have been declared recently ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to assist them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Only in Bihar State an area covering 20 blocks in 8 districts has been declared famine affected area. Scarcity conditions have been reported by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore and Rajasthan.

(b) The State Government has drawn up a relief programme, costing about Rs. 12

crores, which includes provision for hard manual labour schemes, gratuitous relief, public health measures, drinking water supply, cattle relief, energisation of wells and minor irrigation schemes. A central team of officers is visiting the state shortly to make an on the spot assessment of the situation and the request of the State Government for central assistance will be considered on receipt of the team's report. Meanwhile, the State Government has allotted Rs. 1.75 crores for immediate relief measures.

Survey for Implementation of Master Plan for Fisheries of Kerala

*101. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state the steps taken by Government of the detailed survey with regard to the implementation of Rs. 306 crores Master Plan for fisheries from the Kerala Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : The Master Plan proposes introduction of 555 large steel-hulled vessels and 8100 mechanised boats, development of 16 fishing harbours, creation of capacity for additional production of 950 tonnes of ice per day, provision of 2200 tonnes of cold storage capacity, establishment of 14 boat building yards and 22 centres for the construction of steel-hulled trawlers, 19 repair and refitting workshops, 4 wire-less stations, 1 net making factory, 6 industrial estates, 10 canning plants, 14 fish meal plants, 1 marine diesel engine factory etc. The Plan also envisages organisation of 4050 primary cooperative societies, construction of nearly 35,000 houses for fishermen, 186 fish markets and 340 fish stalls. The total outlay envisaged in the Plan is Rs. 305.92 crores.

The Plan covers a period of 20 years, that is, a period which would normally be covered by four five year plans. A detailed survey with regard to implementation of the Plan is, therefore, not practicable at this stage. The Plan, however, provides a useful framework with reference to which the five year plans and detailed programmes can be formulated. The programmes listed in the