

Amendments to Employees Provident Fund Act to Include Establishments having only Ten Workers

528. **SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN :**
SHRI R. P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering amendments to the Employees Provident Fund Act in order to cover industrial establishments having only 10 workers ; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) and (b). The recommendation of the National Commission on Labour to extend the Act to establishments employing between 10 and 20 workers is under consideration. The proposal involves amendment of the Employees' Provident Fund and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and it is proposed to place the matter before the Indian Labour Conference.

Setting up of Salem Steel Plant

529. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :**
SHRI SAMINATHAN :
SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN

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

(a) what further progress has been made in setting up the Salem Steel Plant ; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred in this respect so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The work of preparation of the Techno-economic Feasibility Studies for the Salem Special Steels Project has been

entrusted to M/s. M. N. Dastur & Co. Private Limited, Calcutta. Their report is expected by the end of August, 1971. On the advice of the Consultants, a composite block consisting of about 2,750 acres for the plant proper has been demarcated. This falls within the area already notified by the State Government under Section 4 (f) of the Land Acquisition Act. It has also been decided to go ahead with the land acquisition proceedings in phased manner. The area for the development of the township has also been provisionally demarcated. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited have been entrusted with the work of carrying out exploratory work in connection with the mining of Kanjumalai iron ore deposits and preliminary site work and soil studies. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited have also set up an office at Salem. Negotiations with the concerned agencies, for the tests to be conducted on various raw materials are in progress. The Survey of India have undertaken the detailed topographical survey work of the project site and the township area. The printed survey maps are expected to be ready in June, 1971. The Railways have also commenced survey work for the provision of marshalling and exchange yards and other railway facilities etc.

(b) The total expenditure incurred so far on the Sale Project is about Rs. 6.33 lakhs.

Scheme for Distribution of Seeds, Fertilisers and Plant Protection Materials

530. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study conducted by the U. P. Agricultural University, Pantagar has shown that the gap between the market price of high-yielding varieties and the 'deshi' seeds is widening ;

(b) whether the study has also shown that the farmers with limited resources find it difficult to use improved seeds because of the high costs of inputs required for the adoption of such seeds ; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to set up a suitable machinery