

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The pattern of investment for the period from 1st December 1974 to 31st March 1975 notified on the 30th November, 1974 is the same as for the earlier period 1st October 1974 to 30th November 1974 notified on the 28th September, 1974. These temporary arrangements are being made pending the evolution of a long-term pattern of investment which will promote the interests of the subscribers to the Employees Provident Fund

While the per-centage of investment in Post Office Time Deposits and Small Savings has been reduced in these short term patterns, other steps are being taken to augment the investment income of the Fund and thereby raise the rate of interest paid to the subscribers on their accumulations in the Fund

Bridge at Chettura and Kottappuram on National Highway No. 17 in Kerala

3233. **SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take early steps to construct the bridge at Chettura and Kottappuram in the National Highway No. 17 in Kerala;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) when the construction is likely to begin?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) to (c). The requirement of the two bridges pertains to a recently changed route for National Highway 17 in the reach between Kuttipuram and Edapally (Ernakulam). The old route between Kuttipuram and Trichur is already existing as a fully bridged route. Trichur and Ernakulam are connected by National Highway 47. Development of the altered route of National Highway 17 bet-

ween Kuttipuram and Edapally (Ernakulam) to National Highway standard will be arranged according to availability of funds. Inventorisation for the present status and deficiencies of the route and investigations and formulation of detailed proposals for development works including the requirement of two bridges are being pursued by the State Government.

Expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant

3234. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Minister of Steel and Mines has visited recently the Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, whether the Chief Minister of Orissa has demanded the expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant due to recent increase in production capacity of the Plant and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a general discussion of the working, problems and prospects of the Rourkela Steel Plant. The Fifth Plan programmes of steel development include the setting up of facilities in the Rourkela Steel Plant for the manufactures of cold rolled grain oriented sheets and the expansion of the existing special steel plant there

People Suffering from various Diseases due to Coal Dust and Ash in Shahdara

3235. **SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on account of coal dust and ash which is being stored in public park in Mansarovar Park (Shahadara) peo-