

2. All re-investment of provident fund accumulations (whether invested in securities created and issued by the Central Government or in savings certificates issued by the Central Government or in securities created and issued by a State Government) shall also be made according to the pattern mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

3. The Board of Trustees shall formulate proper procedure for prompt investment or reinvestment of accumulations in accordance with the aforesaid directions and shall have it approved by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner concerned.

[No. G. 27035(3)/74-PFI/I]

C. R. NAIR,

*Deputy Secretary*

#### Indian workers in Sri Lanka

\*803. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian workers in Sri Lanka are facing unemployment in view of the decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to introduce a scheme for redistribution of labour in the tea and rubber plantations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action the Government of India have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) The Sri Lanka Government have appointed a Committee to work out a scheme for:

(i) mobilising estate labour where necessary and to even out surplus labour by the redistribution of labour on other estates to the extent possible;

(ii) offering alternative employment outside estate areas to surplus estate labour which cannot be redistributed; and

(iii) fixing a reasonable cadre for each estate.

(b) The Committee has not commenced its deliberations and as no schemes have so far been formulated their possible impact cannot be evaluated. Our High Commission in Colombo is in touch with the Sri Lanka authorities on this question.

#### Decline in the prices of Steel Production

\*804. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:  
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH;  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of certain steel products are going down all over the country and the Small Scale Industries Corporation is finding it difficult to dispose of steel quotas;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment of the situation; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check this recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

Open market prices of steel items have shown a downward trend. However, for several categories these prices are still above Joint Plant Committee, prices.

The State Small Scale Industries Corporations assess the steel requirement of their units before applying to the Steel Priority Committee for bulk allocations. Allocations are made to them by the Steel Priority Committee taking into account the availability and their projected requirements. The State SSI Corporations are expected to correctly assess their requirements so that there are no problems of disposal of steel allocated to them.