

in relation to employees in any other establishment of a similar character.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of subsection (1) of section 17 of the said Act and subject to the conditions specified in the Schedule annexed hereto, the Central Government hereby exempts the said establishments from the operation of all the provisions of the said Scheme and in pursuance of sub-section (3) of the said section 17, the Central Government hereby directs that the employer in relation to the said establishments shall pay within fifteen days of the close of the month to the Employee's Provident Fund, in addition charges at the rate of 0.09 per cent (zero point zero nine per cent) of the pay (basic wages, dearness allowance, retaining allowance, if any, and cash value of food concession admissible therein) for the time being able to the employees of the said establishments who would have become members under the said Scheme but for this exemption.

THE SCHEDULE

1. The employer shall submit such returns to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner as the Central Government may, from time to time, prescribe.

2. The employer shall furnish to each employee an annual statement of account or Pass Book.

3. All expenses involved in the administration of the fund including the maintenance of accounts, submission of accounts and returns, transfer of accumulations, payment, of inspection charges etc. shall be borne by the employer.

4. Where an employee who is already member of the Employees' Provident Fund (Statutory Fund) or the Provident Fund of another exempted establishment, is employed in his establishment, the employer shall immediately enroll him as member of the Fund of the establishment, and accept the past accumulations in respect of such employee and credit to his account.

5. The employer shall enhance the rate of Provident Fund contribution appropriately if the rate of provident fund contributions in the class of establishments in which his establishment falls is enhanced under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952 so that the bene-

fits under the provident fund Scheme of the establishment shall not become less favourable than the benefit provided under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in the provident fund rules of the establishment if the amount payable to any member, upon his ceasing to be an employee of the establishment or transferable on his transfer to any other establishment by way of employer's and employees' contributions plus interest thereon taken together with the amount, if any, payable under the Gratuity or Pension Rules, be less than the amount that would be payable as employer's and employees' contributions plus interest thereon, if he were a member of the Provident Fund under the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952, the employer shall pay the difference to the member as compensation or special contribution.

7. No amendment of the rules of the provident fund shall be made without the previous approval of the Central Provident Fund Commissioner. Where any amendment is likely to affect adversely the interests of the employee, the Central Provident Fund Commissioner shall, before giving his approval, give a reasonable opportunity to the employees to explain their point of view.

STEEL PLANT IN TAMIL NADU

* 177. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the demand of the Government of Tamil Nadu for a steel plant in their State; and

(b) if so, whether the proposal is likely to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister in her statement in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 1970, *inter-alia* announced the decision of the Government to locate a special steel plant at Salem in Tamil Nadu and to take up its implementation during the Fourth Plan.