

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The total amount withheld by the General Manager, Telephones, Hyderabad is Rs. 50,934.84. After the directive of the Registrar to remit the amount to the Co-operative Society was received, there was further correspondence between the General Manager; Telephone and Registrar consequent on the rejection of Society's writ appeal for remittance of recovered amount by the High Court. The Registrar's final stand was that it would not be desirable for him to interfere in the matter till the main writ petition was finally disposed off.

(b) Departmental shares worth Rs. 2,500 have been withdrawn: the procedural details are being examined.

(c) Instructions have already been issued regarding procedures to be adopted before releasing the withheld amount.

Implementation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by Paradeep Port

608. SHRI SARAT KUMAR KAR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 is being implemented by Paradeep Port; and

(b) if so, the action taken for the appointment of workmen by the contractor executing the Dumper House at Paradeep Port?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information made available by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport, the work of Dumper House is being executed by M/s. Graithwaite Burn and Jessop Construction Company Limited. The

Contractors' establishment had initially obtained a licence for employing 106 contract labour and have subsequently applied for licence for additional 100 workers which is being processed by the authorities concerned.

Message from Pakistan's Prime Minister

609. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high functionary in the Pakistan Foreign Office arrived in India to deliver a personal message from Pakistan's Prime Minister, as reported in the Press on 5th April, 1977; and

(b) if so, the nature and contents of the message?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYFF): (a) Mr. S. Shah Nawaz, Additional Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, visited New Delhi as the special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan from April 4 to 7, 1977. He called on the Prime Minister on April 6 and handed over a letter to him from Mr. Bhutto.

(b) Communications between Governments are confidential in nature. In general, however, Mr. Bhutto expressed his desire to continue the process of normalization of relations between the two countries.

Deaths etc. due to forcible sterilisation in H.P.

610. SHRI BALAK RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died or rendered physically invalid due to forcible sterilisation under the so-called

non-official 5-point programme during emergency in Himachal Pradesh particularly in Simla District;

(b) the amount of compensation, if any, proposed to be given to the families of the deceased or those rendered physically invalid; and

(c) the action taken or contemplated to be taken against all those responsible?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Government of Himachal Pradesh have reported that there has been no case of this type.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Enquiry in Allegations against P.M.G., West Bengal Circle, Calcutta

611. SHRIMATI AHILYA P RANGNEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints of vindictive actions on political considerations against the staff by the Postmaster General, West Bengal Circle, Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether Post and Telegraph Department is considering inquiry into the allegations against the P.M.G; and

(c) whether Government are considering to transfer the said Postmaster General from the West Bengal to facilitate impartial enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Some complaints were received against the administration of the Postmaster General, West Bengal Circle. Inquiries made however, reveal that no vindictive action was taken by the Postmaster General against the staff on Political considerations.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Public and Private Sector Steel to Maruti

612. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) total quantity of steel supplied by the Public and Private Sector Steel Plants to Maruti Ltd., Haryana, to-date since its inception;

(b) manner in which this quantity was utilised by the company;

(c) whether any allegations of irregularities and misuse of steel had been brought against the company;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) action, if any, proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of Public Sector Steel Plants

613. SHRI S. R. DOMANI. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of public sector steel plants in the year ended 31st March, 1977 and how it compares with that of the previous two years;

(b) whether stocks have accumulated with plants for want of demand; and

(c) if so, the actual up-to-date position of stocks, the reasons of the slack demand and the steps proposed for quick disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The following table indicates the annual installed capacity of and actual