

census, about 20 million are in the organised and the rest in the unorganised sector.

(d) This will depend upon the recommendations of the Committee referred to in the reply against parts (a) and (b).

High Strength Low Alloy Steel at Bokaro

*484. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether high strength low alloy steels are to be manufactured on a commercial scale at Bokaro;

(b) if so, whether foreign exchange will be saved on this account; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) After production stabilises, Bokaro will be in a position to produce upto 4,000 tonnes of high strength low alloy steels per annum. The imported price of HSLA at present is around Rs. 4,000 per tonne.

Steel Production

3462. SHRI DHARMA VIR VASISHT Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total steel production in the country in the first quarter of the financial year 1977-78 together with the corresponding production during 1976-77;

(b) the reasons for the increase or decrease of Steel production; and

(c) the net saleable quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The total production of ingot steel from the six integrated steel plants in

the quarter, April-June 1977, was 2,036 million tonnes as against the production of 1,879 million tonnes in the corresponding quarter of 1976-77 i.e. an increase of 1,57,000 tonnes (8.4 per cent).

(b) The increase in production was due to higher volume of production from Bokaro Steel Plant and due to the improvement in the working of the other plants.

(c) The total production of saleable steel in the quarter, April-June 1977, was 1,681 million tonnes.

Recognised Medical Colleges

3463. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number and location of Government recognised Medical Colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): The number of medical colleges recognised by the Medical Council of India for the purpose of award of M.B.B.S. degree at present is 94 though the total number of colleges imparting education to M.B.B.S. students is 106. The list of the 94 medical colleges is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-697/77.]

Compulsory Retirement of P&T Employees of Maharashtra

3464. SHRI PUNDALIK HARI DANAWE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees from Posts & Telegraphs Deptt. of the State of Maharashtra have been asked to retire premature during the period of emergency;

(b) whether because of the political vindictiveness many of them are

the victims of this compulsory retirement; and

(c) whether Government intend to look into such cases and do the justice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):
(a) In Postal, Telecom. Circles and Telephone Districts in Maharashtra, 118 employees were prematurely retired during the period of emergency.

(b) and (c). The premature retirement was ordered only after following the procedure laid down in the rules. The representations as and when received from the concerned persons are considered on merits by a Review Committee in the P&T Directorate.

Priority to Postal and Telecommunications Facility in Orissa

3465. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of identified backward districts in postal and telecommunications of Orissa given priority to provide better postal and telecommunications in the year 1976-77;

(b) the programmes proposed by the Orissa Circle to implement in the year 1977-78; and

(c) the reasons for delay to provide the communications in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

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- (a) *Postal* . . . (i) Seven complete districts and some parts of 3 districts.
- Telecom.* . . . (ii) Nine complete districts and some parts of one district.
- (b) *Postal* . . . Programmes proposed by the Orissa Circle for 1977-78 are:
- (i) Opening of Post Offices in rural areas—89 including 40 Mobile Post Offices on cycles.
- (ii) Opening of Post Offices in urban areas—25.
- (iii) Conversion of existing Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices into Mobile EDBOs to provide counter facilities to additional villages—455.
- (iv) Installation of additional letter boxes—3000.
- (v) Extension of daily delivery facilities to additional villages—1000.
- Telecom.* . . . (vi) 70 long distance PCOs and 70 combined (Telegraph) offices.
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(c) Proposals for extension of Postal and Telecom. facilities to very backward districts are examined on priority

and sanctioned in accordance with the prescribed norms. Therefore, the question of any delay does not arise.