

**Sanction of Malaria Attack Phase Unit to Kerala**

3483. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government's request to sanction one attack phase unit (Malaria) to cover susceptible areas in the State consequent on deforestation and colonisation has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) From 1st April, 1977, the Government of India have introduced a modified plan of operations for the control of malaria in the country. Under this modified plan, central assistance is provided to states for efficient control of Malaria where the incidence is two cases or more per thousand of population commonly known as two plus Annual Parasitic Index (API). As the A.P.I. in Kerala is below two per thousand of population central assistance for a separate Malaria Unit could not be provided. The Central Government have, however, allocated to Kerala an outlay of Rs. 1.66 lakhs during the year 1977-78 to meet the expenditure on operational cost for the Headquarters and one Zonal tier. Over and above the operational cost, the Government of India is also providing assistance to Kerala in the form of material and equipment at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.49 lakhs per annum.

**Disparity in Pay Scales in V.I.S.L., Bhadravathi and A.S.P., Durgapur**

3484. SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity in the pay scales and service condi-

tions amongst officers of the Visveswaraiya Iron and Steel Ltd., Bhadravathi and A. S. P., Durgapur;

(b) the norms that guide the authorities in fixing them; and

(c) steps Government propose to remove disparities and create healthy conditions in the interest of the industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c). It is true that there is a difference in the pay scales and emoluments as well as the terms and conditions of services of officers of VISL and those of the major integrated steel plants including A.S.P. Durgapur. The reason for this is that till 1962 VISL was a departmental undertaking of Karnataka State Government and the pay scales were being determined keeping in view the pay scales prevailing in other departments of the State Government. Subsequently, after VISL became a company under the Companies Act, 1956 the pay scales of the officers have been revised from time to time with a view to narrowing down the difference between these scales and the scales of officers in the integrated steel plants. Comparison with pay scales of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur which is a wholly owned Government of India undertaking would not be quite proper for the reason that the majority of shares i.e. 60 per cent in VISL are held by the State Government while 40 per cent shares are held by SAIL. However, the Board of the Company is seized of the matter and is constituting a panel for examining all the relevant issues so that definite recommendations can be made for consideration both by the State Government and the Government of India for a final decision.

**Telephone Calls from Bombay to Poona**

3485. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether telephone calls from Bombay to Poona are being considered as local calls?