

increased steadily over the last four years as will be seen from the following figures :

	<i>Tonnes</i>
1973-74—	3,22,671
1974-75—	6,13,539
1975-76—	7,75,393
1976-77—	10,51,569
1977-78— (Target)	12,00,000

The Company has also developed the Chandmari Copper Project which is adjacent to the Khetri Copper Project for the production of 1,50,000 tonnes of ore per annum. The capacity of this mine is being expanded to 3,00,000 tonnes per annum. In addition, the copper concentrates being produced at Dariba Copper Project which has a capacity of 100 tonnes per day of ore milling, are also being fed to the Khetri Smelter. Full capacity production at the Khetri Smelter is however, expected to be achieved only when the Malanjkhanda Copper Mine and concentrator plant goes into production. Work on this project has started during this year and ore production of 1 million tonnes per annum is expected to be reached within about 4-1/2 years from now.

For overcoming the technological problems of the Smelter, the company is arranging to obtain the services of a well known firm of foreign metallurgical consultants.

Migration of Lepers from Bombay to Gujarat

3531. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the beggars suffering from leprosy have migrated from Bombay to Gujarat;

(b) whether they are being settled; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the citizens of that State from the health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

However, for anti leprosy measures, 8 leprosy control units, 260 Survey Education and Treatment Centres in the rural areas, 16 Urban Leprosy Centres for the urban areas, two Re-constructive surgery Units for correction of deformities of patients, two temporary Hospitalisation Wards for treatment of acutely ill and complicated cases of leprosy and one Leprosy Training Centre for training of Para-Medical Workers have been established in the State under the National Leprosy Control Programme. Besides, there are two Government and 3 Voluntary Leprosy Hospitals having 745 beds. Five voluntary organisations also participate in the leprosy control work. All the 25,000 estimated cases of leprosy have been detected and registered for treatment.

Opening of Post and Telegraph and Telephone Offices in Rural Areas

3533. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any programme for setting up new post office and telegraph and telephone offices in the rural areas during the year 1977-78;

(b) if so, facts thereabout; and

(c) state-wise break-up of the figures of such proposed post, telegraph and telephone offices in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to open 3100 post offices in rural areas, and 2300