

(b) With a view to fighting the bedbugs nuisance along with malaria, Diazinon is mixed with DDT before spray.

Post Offices in Urban and Rural Areas of the Country

3536. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post offices working in urban and rural areas separately in India;

(b) the maximum and minimum distances of post offices from villages in rural areas; and

(c) the maximum and minimum number of days usually taken by a letter to reach the post office situated in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA: (a) On 1-4-77, there were 12508 post offices in urban areas and 108491 in rural areas in India.

(b) Generally, post offices are opened at a distance of 2 to 3 miles from each other in rural areas. However, in hilly areas where means of transport are difficult, post offices are widely apart. The maximum and minimum distances of post offices from villages without post offices in rural areas are 188 Kilometers and 200 meters respectively.

(c) The time taken in normal cases may vary from 1 to 5 days depending upon the place of posting and the place of destination. However, in case of villages in hilly areas/forests/desert, it may take longer for letters to reach their destination depending on the place of posting and the situation of the village to which the letter is addressed.

Recanalisation of Sterilised Persons

3537. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to U.S.Q. No. 632 on 16th June, 1977 regarding recanalisation in case of unsuccessful vasectomy operations and state the number of persons recanalised during the last three months State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

Measures for Mines' Safety

3538. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take immediate steps and also intensify measures for mines' safety and rescue operation;

(b) if so, the main proposals considered by Government this year in this regard;

(c) whether the compensation due to the mine explosions has been increased;

(d) whether the Mines Act has not been so far strictly enforced; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for mines' safety?

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

(b) and (e). A statement is attached.

(c) Persons employed in any mine as defined in clause (J) of Section 2 of the Mines Act, 1952, in any mining operation or in any kind of work, other than clerical work, incidental to