

Method	Total* Acceptors 1976-77	Average age of acceptors during 1975-76
Vasectomy . . . . .	2,05,452	39.6*
Tubectomy . . . . .	20,753	34.9
IUD . . . . .	11,982	32.8
@Equivalent CC Users (including oral pill users) . . . . .	15,675	..

\*Provisional

@FThe figures of equivalent conventional contraceptive users is arrived at on the basis of total number of condoms, jelly,/cream, oral pill cycle distributed.

**Ratio of Post offices and population**

2315. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the all India ratio of post offices and population; and

(b) whether in backward areas the local people have to compensate for the loss in running a post office?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) one Post Office serves on an average 4,533 persons.

(b) In backward areas, a post office is opened by the Department without asking for any compensation of costs if the income is at least 15 per cent of the cost and in hilly areas at least 10 per cent of the costs. In either case, the quantum of loss to be borne by the Department should not normally exceed Rs. 1,000/- per annum. If the condition of minimum income is not met, the sponsoring party, i.e. the State Government, the Village Panchayat or any other party has to bear the full costs. In case the minimum income condition is met but the loss is over Rs. 1,000/- per annum, the sponsoring party has to bear the quantum of costs in excess of Rs. 1,000/-

**Alleged irregularities in appointments in H.S.L.**

2318. SHRI S. G. MURAGAIYAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged irregularities in appointments to various grades of personnel in Hindustan Steel Limited at Calcutta;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into these allegations; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (d). It is presumed that the reference is to a report published in the *Economic Times* of 12th May, 1977, under caption 'Supersessions galore in HSL'. If so, the allegations contained in the report have been found to be incorrect.

**मेडिकल कालेजों में प्रवेश**

2319. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :-

(क) क्या भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद ने निर्णय किया है कि केवल उन्हीं छात्रों