

technology for 750 man months in Canada and France.

(c) A total of 321 man-months have been covered under these transfer of technology programmes upto October, 1986.

(d) and (e). 15.5 man-months, which is 4.83 per cent of the total man-months indicated in reply to part (c), were covered by officers belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

(f) Although no specific reservation is made for deputing SCs/STs officers under these programmes, due care is taken in respect of sponsoring suitable SC/ST candidates, keeping in view the work requirements and suitability of the candidates.

Installation of new Telephone Exchanges in Trivandrum

4307. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide a new Telecom, Electronic Exchange in the Medical College area in Trivandrum district of Kerala State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed date of installation of the new exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A 10,000 line E 10B local digital electronic telephone exchange has been allotted for Medical College area in Trivandrum. However, to accommodate this exchange, a new building has to be constructed, which is likely to come up in the 8th plan. Accordingly, this exchange will be installed during the 8th plan period.

Setting up of Caustic Soda Plant at Haldia

4308. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of setting up of a Caustic Soda Plant by Indian Aluminium Company at Haldia; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The request of M/s. Indian Aluminium Company Limited for grant of a licence for the manufacture of Caustic Soda, Liquid Chlorine etc., at Haldia, West Bengal, has been approved, subject to MRTP/FERA clearances.

Acceptance of money orders by post offices

4309 SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the post offices are accepting money orders in rupees only; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section-43 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 empowers the Central Government to make rules regarding money orders. Indian Post Office Rules 1933 (Rules 110 to 142) define the conditions under which the money order service is operated. Now the Government has decided that money orders can be issued only in rupees and Rule 110 of the Indian Post Office rules, 1933 has been amended as below :

"The amount for which a single money order may be issued shall not exceed Rs. 1000/- and shall not include a fraction of a rupee."

Workers employed in Coir Industry

4310. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any statistics about the number of workers employed in the coir industry in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of coir workers in India, and Kerala in particular; and

(c) the number of coir workers now unemployed in the production sector due to non-availability of husks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The total number of workers employed in the coir industry is estimated at five lakhs in the country of which Kerala accounts for 4.75 lakhs.

(c) No unemployment is reported in the production sector due to non-availability of husks.

Violation of Mild Steel Tubes Quality Control Order, 1978

4311. **SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD :
PROF. CHANDRA BHANU
DEVI :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Mild Steel Tubes Quality Control Order 1978, no mild steel tube can be manufactured, stored or sold or distributed, having wall thickness less than that stipulated under I.S. : 1239, except for Sprinkler Irrigation System;

(b) whether I.S.I. has recently permitted in violation of the Quality Control Order, a large number of users other than Sprinkler Irrigation System, of mild steel tube having wall thickness less than that stipulated under I.S. 1239; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) :

(a) The Mild Steel Tubes Quality Control Order, 1978, prescribes minimum thickness of tubes which can be used for conveying steam, water, gas and air. The Quality Control Order does not make any reference to sprinkler irrigation system.

(b) and (c). As certain new varieties of tubes based on foreign technology with a thickness lower than that specified in the Quality Control Order, 1978, appeared in the market, the need for prescribing a separate Indian Standard for them was felt. These pipes which are to be used for conveying water can be easily transported and quickly assembled and dismantled. The Indian Standard specification for these pipes has been recently published after taking into account their characteristics referred to above. The Indian Standard now published permits the use of the new pipes not only for sprinkler irrigation, but also in areas where ease of transportation and quick assembling and dismantling are the prime requisites of the users. Such areas are as follows :

- (a) Irrigation including sprinkler irrigation;
- (b) Construction site-water supply in Civil engineering and construction projects; compressed air pipe lines and networks at construction sites;
- (c) Temporary or emergency water service;
- (d) Suction lines (tube wells);
- (e) Dewatering in flood relief operations;
- (f) Dust suppression through sprinkling in mining, are handling, etc.;
- (g) Industrial piping system requiring occasional dismantling for cleaning or realignment;
- (h) Well point dewatering networks;
- (i) Aeration in fish farming; and
- (j) Fire preventing and fighting (coal-yards/pits, timberyards/raw material stockyards for paper mills).