

preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been accorded. Letter of Intent for preparation of basic engineering package has since been placed by the Company.

(d) Firm cost estimates of the Khetri Expansion will be available after the DPR has been prepared.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The project is likely to be implemented by mid 1998.

#### Rural Health Programme

820. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of the rural health programme has been lagging behind the targets set for it;

(b) if so, the details of backlog about the operation of sub-centres, Primary Health Centres, and Community Health Centres;

(c) the details of the shortage of manpower and infrastructural facilities like buildings, medical and para-medical personnel, medical specialists, medical equipments and drugs;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the rural health programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to improve operational efficiency of the rural health care system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b)	Targets upto 31.3.95	Achievement upto 30.9.94
S.C.	135549	131471
PHC	22698	21172
C.H.C.	2773	2326

#### (c) MANPOWER IN POSITION

	Required (as on 30.9.94)	In position (as on 30.9.94)
MPW(M)	131471	61619
ANM	131471	129069
MO(PHC)	21172	23802
Specialists	9304	2514

#### BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED (as on 30.9.1994)

	Required	In Position*
S.C.	131471	74075
P.H.C.	21172	14653
C.H.C.	2326	2110

\*Includes buildings under construction.

**DRUGS AND EQUIPMENTS:** The Central Government provides financial assistance for drugs at the rate of Rs. 2000/per sub-centre per year. Equipments and drugs for CHCs and PHCs is provided under the Minimum Needs Programme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Central Govt. regularly advises State Govts. to utilise full provisions under the Minimum Needs Programme so as to improve quality of services provided.

#### Secondary Steel Industry

821. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of the Government to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry for the revival of Mini Steel Plants;

(b) whether the Government have decided against a blanket revival package for the secondary steel sector; and

(c) if so, the effect of this decision on the secondary steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the status of mini steel plants, the Ministry of Steel had appointed an Evaluation Group to examine the recommendations of the Committee, and to suggest suitable remedial and other measures for the growth of this sector, keeping in view the resource position of Government and also the feasibility of availing of assistance from the financial institutions and other such agencies. While no blanket revival package has been suggested, measures like lowering of customs duty on project imports from 35% to 25% extension of Modvat to capital goods, reduction in interest rate and reduction in import duty on steel melting scrap from 12.5% to 5% are expected to improve the overall performance of the steel plants, including the mini steel plants.

#### Radio Paging Services

822. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:  
SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit private sector participation in radio paging services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the cities selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has already issued licences to Indian registered companies to operate radio paging service in 27 major cities. The list of licensees alongwith the names of the cities selected are given in the statement, enclosed. In the second phase, the rest of the country will also be covered for which tenders have already been invited.