

[*Translation*]

**Representation of employees in Khadi and Village Industries Commission**

2328. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to include an employee among the members to be nominated for 'Khadi Gromodyog Ayog' (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) so that the representative of the employees could also contribute equally to Commission's proceedings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[*English*]

**Proposal to revive Steel and Allied Products Limited in West Bengal**

2329. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received a proposal from Government of West Bengal to revive Steel and Allied Products Limited in West Bengal by giving certain relief and concession and fresh input of about Rupees Five Crores during next 3-4 years; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Prospects of revival of M/s. Steel and Allied Products, including the proposals of the Government of West Bengal, have been considered by the financial institutions. A conclusion was arrived at that the unit had lost its viability and there were no prospects of its revival.

**Mail Sorting Staff**

2330. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent upon the abolition of mail sorting sections, a number of sorters have been absorbed in the stationery sorting offices rendering a number of daily wage/temporary sorting assistants surplus, especially in Delhi Postal Circle;

(b) if so, the number of such sorting assistants in each circle as have not been given any duty during the second half of financial year 1984-85;

(c) whether Government would ensure that no hand once recruited after having been given the necessary training is without work simply on the ground that some sorting sections have been abolished; and

(d) the total number of sorting sections abolished, circle-wise and number of sorters who have been (i) given (ii) not given the alternate duties so far, circle-wise as on 31st March, 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The staff rendered surplus due to the abolition of sorting in running sections has been attached to the stationary sorting offices. No retrenchment of permanent or temporary regular staff has taken place on this account in Delhi or elsewhere. However, as a result of attachment of surplus staff to stationary sorting offices, reserve staff, who have been recruited in the past for utilisation on payment of wages on hourly basis with a prospect of absorption in regular vacancies in due course, are not in a position to be absorbed against regular vacancies in the near future.

(b) The number of reserve staff who are awaiting absorption in regular vacancies is being ascertained and the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As the reserve trained staff have been recruited not against current vacancies but against future vacancies, they will have to wait till such time as vacancies become available after surplus staff already attached to stationary sorting offices get absorbed.

(d) Details are furnished in the statement attached.

## Statement

Name of Circle	Converted	Abolished/ Merged
Andhra	22	7
Bihar	29	1
Gujarat	23	—
Kerala	7	—
Karnataka	9	—
M.P.	20	2
Maharashtra	17	—
North Eastern	3	4
North Western	22	1
Orissa	8	2
Rajasthan	15	
Tamil Nadu	16	6
U.P.	27	1
West Bengal	13	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>+ 24 = 255</b>

- (i) No. of Sorting Assistants given alternate duties = 1556
- (ii) No. of Sorting Assistants not given alternate duties = Nil

**Enquiry Conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, etc. regarding Gag Poisoning in Bhopal**

2331. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on-the-spot studies into the effects of gas poisoning in Bhopal have been conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Services as well as the Society for Participatory Research in Asia;

(b) if so, whether its findings will be made public in the interest of scientific knowledge; and

(c) whether many victims are no longer in a position to perform the manual labour which had been their main source of income earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). The State Government have reported that such a study has been undertaken through the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, along with the participation of the Indore School of Social Work, Kashi Vidyapith School of Social Work, Varanasi, Faculty of Social Work, M/s. University, Baroda, Tirpude School of Social Work, Nagpur Matru Seva Sangh Institute of Social Work, Nagpur, Kerve Institute of Social Services (Poona) and Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, Bombay University. The complete findings and the analysis of the data collected during the survey has not been received from the State Government so far.

[Translation]

**Retail Prices of Medicines**

2332. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed the retail prices of certain medicines for the benefit of common people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). Retail Prices of price controlled Medicines are regulated under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Price fixation-revision is a continuous process and after the promulgation of the said Order, prices of a very large number of formulations have been fixed/revised.

[English]

**Import of Soda Ash**

2333. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have been urged for immediate import of one lakh tonnes soda ash through the State Trading Corporation of India and distri-