

The list of approved candidates is valid for about 12 months. The first batch of 500 have been promoted; the remaining candidates are expected to get their promotions according to their rank in the select list as and when vacancies arise in the course of the year.

#### Increase in Steel Prices

6128. SHRI K MALLANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different varieties of steel had gone up considerably during the recent years;

(b) if so, what has been the element of increase in prices of each variety of steel during each of the years from 1973-74 to 1976-77 over the prices prevailing in 1972-73; and

(c) the reasons for increase in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (c). Except to compensate for the increase in excise duty and Railway freight from time to time and also to meet price hike in coal, there has been no increase in the J.P.C. steel prices since the dual pricing policy for the steel industry was adopted in October, 1973.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-939/77].

#### अफ्रीकी देशों से निर्यात

6129. श्री राम प्रकाश त्रिपाठी : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन्हें कुछ अफ्रीकी देशों से आयात प्राप्त हुआ है। यदि हाँ, तो उनके नाम क्या हैं ;

(ख) क्या उक्त देशों के उनके सम्भाव्य दौरे का कार्यक्रम तैयार कर लिया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो कार्यक्रम में शामिल देशों के नाम क्या हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) :

(क) जी हाँ। एस देशों की सूची बनाना संभव नहीं है क्योंकि इनमें से अनेक निर्यात आयातकार हैं।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

#### Omission of Saving Bank Account from Prize Incentive Scheme

6130. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any eligible Saving Bank accounts with the Post Offices have been omitted from the Draws under Prize Incentive Scheme;

(b) whether any complaints about such omissions have been received by the concerned Department;

(c) whether the departmental publicity announcements through the All India Radio adequately advised the eligible depositors to check Code Number allotted to them every six months, at the Post Offices;

(d) if the answers to part (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what Government propose to do to inspire confidence in the scheme; and

(e) will Government consider allotting of permanent Code Numbers to save public from the inconvenience of checking Code Numbers every six months?