

(e) the percentage of incidence of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) No. However some hospitals may not be stocking the vaccine.

(b) There is no shortage of oral polio vaccine in the country. The vaccine is adequately available at Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay, and any hospital in the country can purchase it.

(c) At present, the Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay imports the vaccine from the U.S.S.R.

(d) The number of cases treated during 1976 was 9206.

(e) Exact incidence of the disease in the country as a whole is not available.

Extension of EPF Act to Establishment Employing ten or more Persons

6135. **SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Bill is pending with the Labour Ministry for extending the Employees' Provident Fund Act and scheme 1952 to the Establishment employing ten or more persons as already done in the Employees' State Insurance Corporation which is a sister concern organisation of Employees' Provident Fund and

(b) if so, why it is not brought to Parliament and how much time it will take to bring the bill in Parliament for its approval?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Certain proposals for amendment of the Employees' Provident

Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 including the one relating to extending the coverage of the Act to establishments employing 10 or more persons are under consideration of the Government.

Small Manufacturers of Steel Products

6136. **SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH: SHRI MEETHA LAL PATEL:**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would be desirable for Government to allow the small scale manufacturers of steel products to meet their requirements of steel direct from the steel plants;

(b) whether there is any difference between the ex-factory price and the market price of steel; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) With a view to make optimum use of the transport facility, the general policy is to move steel in rake loads as far as possible. But, in order to help the small scale units, despatches to the State Small Scale Industries Corporations are made in wagon loads. Government have also recently decided to supply plates, structurals, hot rolled coils/sheets, cold rolled coils/sheets also in wagon loads to units with private sidings.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It varies from time to time according to supply, demand and other market conditions. Sometimes it is less and sometimes it is more.

Dispute between Punjab National Bank and its Employees

6137 **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an industrial dispute between the Management of the