

(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

Punjab National Bank and the employees of the said bank regarding the illegal termination of promotion policy settlement in respect of the promotion of Clerks and Special Assistants had been brought before the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Kanpur;

(b) if so, the full facts of the case and the decision taken by the Labour Commissioner;

(c) whether this case could not be referred to adjudication and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will reconsider its earlier decision which was taken under certain political pressure?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A settlement between the management of the Punjab National Bank and All India Punjab National Bank Employees' Federation over the policy and procedure concerning promotion of Clerks and Special Assistants as Officers and direct recruitment of Officers and related matters was signed on 16.6.73 for a period of 3 years.

2. The management of the Punjab National Bank gave a notice to the Federation on 10.1.76 to the effect that the settlement, dated 16.6.73 shall stand terminated with effect from 31.3.76. They also issued on 21.4.76 a circular laying down a new policy and procedure for promotion of Clerks and Special Assistants as Officers which is at variance with the policy and procedure laid down in this behalf in the settlement. They also issued another circular on 1.5.76 inviting applications from Clerks and Special Assistants for holding a test/interview for selection as Officers in accordance with the new policy and procedure adopted by management vide their circular dated 21.4.76.

3. The Secretary, All India Punjab National Bank Employees Federation raised an industrial dispute on 22.4.76 challenging the action of the management on the grounds that the notice of termination issued by management on 10.1.76 was invalid because it was issued during the pendency of the settlement and the management's action in unilaterally formulating and enforcing a new promotion policy in violation of the terms of settlement was illegal and unjustified.

4. The dispute was entertained in conciliation by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Kanpur on 19.6.76 but as no settlement could be arrived at he submitted failure of conciliation report to the Central Government which was received by the latter on 25.6.76.

5. Since the receipt of the failure of conciliation report from the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Kanpur, the matter has been under the consideration of the Government. The management has now appointed a Committee consisting of 3 representatives of the management and 3 representatives of the Federation to review the new promotion policy and procedure adopted by the management and to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute. The Committee has already held three meetings on 23.5.77, 11.6.77 and 16.7.77 and is continuing its effort to resolve the matter.

Increase of Seats in Medical Colleges

6138. **SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to all Government medical colleges to accommodate all eligible students for the medical group in their colleges;

(b) if so, whether they have also been asked to increase the seats, if