

these Interpreters should have a working knowledge of Hindi also.

(b) Government have been able to transact business satisfactorily in Missions abroad either in the language of the country to which the Mission is accredited or in English. The Ministry tries to ensure that all Missions have some Hindi knowing personnel on their staff.

(c) None.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Introduction of Rural Health Scheme**

693. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the direction of introducing the rural health scheme as enunciated by the Ministry some time back;

(b) the stages in which the scheme is to be launched and the areas to start with; and

(c) the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) The draft plan of 'Rural Health Scheme' was discussed in the Health Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on 28th-29th April, 1977. On the basis of the consensus arrived at the meeting the State Governments have been requested to send their approach papers which are still awaited from some of them.

(b) As decided in the Health Ministers' Conference, the Scheme, as far as possible, will be launched on 2nd October, 1977. If there will be any difficulty in starting the programme in all Primary Health Centres simultaneously, priority would be given to areas populated by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and most backward classes.

(c) Under the Rural Health Scheme there is a provision for selection of the community health workers by the com-

munity itself. Such community health workers will provide basic preventive, promotive and curative services at the level of the community. This also provides for improvement in the quality of the professional services by way of increasing the number of multi-purpose workers, induction of a large number of doctors in the rural areas and making medical colleges responsible for total health of selected primary health centres. It envisages training of about 5.8 lakh community health workers in a period of two years and training of equal number of dais to look after the deliveries, ante-natal and postnatal cares in the rural areas. The details of the scheme are, however, under examination of Finance Ministry and Planning Commission.

#### **Increase in Rates and Securities in Telephone and other P. & T. Departments**

694. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase made by the Government in the rates of Securities in the telephone and other P. & T. departments in the last two years;

(b) the approximate amount of gain received by the Government due to those increases;

(c) the facilities provided by the Government to the people in this connection in the last two years; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the services of the telephone of P&T. Department?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). An amount equal to one year's rental is taken as security for telephone charges against each telephone. Since 1-3-76 annual rental of all telephone connections has increased by Rs. 100 per connection. This amount is not made use of by the department except in case of default in payment of dues by the subscriber.