

employees working in the P & T Department are 'Civil Servants'; and

(b) if so, whether the P & T Department is taking steps to treat the Extra-Departmental staff on par with regular employees for all purposes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Supreme Court has in its judgement on 22nd April, 1977, held that the Extra Departmental Agent holds a post under the State, though the posts are outside the regular civil services.

(b) This is under examination in the light of Supreme Court's judgement.

Expansion of TISCO

*183. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to TISCO to proceed with the expansion scheme of the steel plant;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is a joint sector project; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Labour Participation in Management

1485. **SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state the number of public and private sector industries in which the labourers are actively participating in the management.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): According to the information received from 25 States/Union Territories and Central public undertakings on the implementation of the Scheme for Workers' Participation in Industry, till end of May, 1977, 2,013 units in public as well as private sector have implemented the Scheme or taken steps to do so or have made alternative arrangements to implement it.

Training to bare-foot doctors for rural India

1486. **SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to train bare-foot doctors to serve rural India; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). There is a scheme under consideration of the Government for improving the rural health services in the country whereunder there is a provision for selection of community health workers by the community and their training for three months in the Primary Health Centres in the fundamentals of health sciences, hygiene, treatment of common infectious diseases, immunisation, maternity and child care, treatment of common ailments, first-aid, etc. They will also be given training in the traditional systems and yogic methods of maintaining physical fitness. Various charts and maps on the subject will be specially prepared for the training. Further, under this Scheme, there is a provision for training of dais for each village/community for one month.