

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) The percentage of supplies to potential demands during 1973-74 to 1976-77 is given below:—

1973-74	.	.	.	.	59	%
1974-75	.	.	.	.	52	%
1975-76	.	.	.	.	52	%
1976-77	.	.	.	.	55.7	%

(b) The inadequate satisfaction of demand is due mainly to (i) dependence on DGS&D for bulk purchase of supplies; (ii) policy of Depots to distribute their available stocks giving preference to small units located in rural and semi-urban areas rather than to big hospitals; and (iii) the fact that Depots have been stocking only those items which appear in the Vocabulary of Medical Stores.

(c) The following proposals are under consideration to increase the efficiency of the Medical Stores Depots in India:—

1. Allotment of adequate funds.
2. Delegation of powers to the Medical Stores Organisation for the direct purchase of Stores.
3. Streamlining of the procedure regarding the recoveries of dues from Indentors which are mostly State Governments.

**Serving notice by workers of Government Medical Store Depot workers Union, Madras**

4085. SHRI A. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government Medical Store Depot Workers Union, Madras has served a notice on the 24th November, 1977 to the Director General of Health Services, New Delhi to solve their long standing problems within 15 days failing which they will go in for direct action;

(b) the particulars of the grievances and reasons for not taking action to settle the grievances so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to settle the matter amicably and quickly especially in view of the need for not effecting cyclone relief work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). In their letter dated the 24th November, 1977, the Government Medical Stores Depot Workers' Union, Madras had *inter alia* invited our attention to the following Resolution passed by their Executive Committee:

“Resolved to request the Directorate to recognise the workers Union within 15 days from the date of receipt of this letter and permit Workers' Union to install its notice board inside the depot premises. Failing which this Union will install its Notice board inside the depot premises as other unrecognised Unions have.”

In accordance with the latest labour policy the recognition of more than one union association in the various Government Medical Stores Depots is contrary to the provisions of the Code of Discipline. With a view to determining the most representative Union, a dialogue is proposed to be started with the representatives of the Government Medical Store Depot Employees' Union, the Government Medical Store Depot Officials' Association and the Government Medical Store Depot Workers' Union to bring them around to the formation of a single recognised general Union.

**Post Offices managed by school teachers in Hoshangabad, M.I.**

4086. SHRI R. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village post offices managed by the School teachers in the district of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number in existence over forty years; and

(c) whether Government propose to upgrade them to Sub-Branch Post Offices and also to provide telephone facilities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) 88, Sir.

(b) 33, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to upgrade them. At five places telephone facilities are likely to be provided.