

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No survey as made in September, 1977.

Non-availability of medicines for the treatment of Kala-Azar

698. SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicine for curing Kalaazar is not available in our country as a result of which Kalaazar is not being controlled;

(b) whether the World Health Organisation has been requested to assist in this matter; and

(c) whether, China, who has reported to have eradicated the disease in that country, has offered to assist India in the eradication of Kalaazar from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). No. Antimony compounds which are the most effective drugs for curing Kalaazar are manufactured in the country and the position of their availability is now quite satisfactory. However about 5 per cent cases of Kalaazar may not respond to antimony compounds and such cases are treated with Pentamidine. This drug is not manufactured in the country and hence the W.H.O. have been requested to assist in its supply. Part of the supplies have already been received.

(c) No such offer has been received by this Ministry.

Instant Service Counters (Savings Bank) opened by P & T Department

699. SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Instant Service Counters (Savings Bank) opened by the P&T Department in the country so far in order to speed up the service at Post Office Savings Banks;

(b) number of instant Service Counters proposed to be opened during the current year and number proposed to be opened in Assam; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide instant service counters also in the rural post offices in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHEDEO SAI): (a) Till April 1977, the Instant Counter Service has been provided in all Head Post Offices and Higher Selection Grade and Lower Selection Grade Sub Post Offices where there is an exclusive Savings Bank Counter clerk.

(b) Since May 1977, the Service has been extended to LSG Sub Post Offices with three hands or more. In Assam State the service is available in 13 Head Post Offices and 58 Sub Post Offices. It is proposed to be extended to 5 more Sub Post Offices in the State during 1977-78.

(c) It is already available in 26 Post Offices in rural areas of the State and will be extended to 2 more Post Offices in 1977-78.

250 Million Rouble credit by Soviet Union

700. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal is under consideration to utilise the 250 million Rouble credit made available by the Soviet Union for setting up an export oriented blast furnace complex at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?