

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKH-DEO SAI): (a) and (b). 57360 villages have been provided with counter facilities through mobile post offices up to 31-1-1978 against a target of 50,000 for the year 1977-78.

Rural Health Scheme

2227. SHRI SHAMBHUNATH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the criticism by eminent doctors and Presidents of the Indian Medical Association and Commonwealth Medical Association of the Rural Health Scheme, in particular of the appointment of Quacks; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The Government have taken note of whatever criticism has appeared in the press or come to its notice against the Community Health Workers Scheme. Most of the doctors are in agreement with the importance and objectives of the scheme. The President of the Indian Medical Association participated in the fourth joint meeting of the Central Council of Health and the Central Council of Family Welfare. In the said meeting he did not criticise the scheme. This meeting was also attended by the President of the Delhi Branch of Indian Medical Association. He also did not criticize it. The Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the President of Indian Council of Medical Research and other eminent specialists in the field, who

were present in the meeting, praised the scheme. Specialists of other countries have also welcomed it. Reports received from the States and also those from the officers visiting the fields confirm that the people are enthusiastic and happy about the scheme.

The community health workers, are not doctors. They are merely health workers selected by the community. This scheme is a step towards involving the community in taking care of itself.

Import of cold rolled steel sheets from a Dutch Company

2229. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to import a huge quantity of cold rolled steel sheets from a Dutch Company called the Hoogovens;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the price per tonne to be paid; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this price is well above the world market rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. However, SAIL International Limited imports steel material required by the end users from time to time. CR Sheets/Coils is one of the items that is being imported during 1977-78. It is a fact that SAIL International Limited has placed order on M/s. Hoogovens Verkoopkantoor by, Holland as they have placed orders on other foreign companies.

(b) The per tonne price applicable on the order is DFL 863 C&F for shipment to Bombay and DFL 668.85 C&F for shipment to Madras and Vizag