

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India at present. There is, however, a scheme for reservation of 50 per cent of post-graduate seats in central institutions for the M.B.B.S. doctors who have worked in rural areas for at least two years.

Placement of Officers in Durgapur Steel Plant

745. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a strong provincial feeling is very active in Durgapur Steel Plant regarding placement of officers as some officers belonging to the land of the soil are being dislodged by the management for making provision for the persons not belonging to the land of the soil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No such provincial feeling has come to the notice of the Government in the Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) Does not arise.

Inadequate supply of Medicine in Delhi Hospitals

746. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the medicines supplied to Government hospitals in Delhi are inadequate and are not given in time;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government to improve the timely supply of the same;

(c) whether a good percentage of supplied medicines instead of reach-

ing to the patients is sold in the open market by some corrupt staff; and

(d) if so, what active methods have been adopted by Government to stop permanently the alleged malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV). (a) and (b). Except for occasional shortage for limited periods in the case of some medicines which may be in general short supply in the market, there is no inadequacy of medicines in the Government hospitals in Delhi.

(c) and (d). The allegation is not correct. However, if and when any malpractices of this nature come to Government notice, suitable remedial action is taken after proper investigation.

Medical Fitness Certificates

747. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the name of Medical Fitness Certificates, the selected Government employees are sometimes harassed and also forced to late joining as only one Hospital in Delhi being authorised for medical check up which is always crowded; and

(b) is it not possible to extend this authorisation to other Government hospitals and also to the private doctors for the less responsible non-Technical posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Under the existing arrangements, for medical examination of Central Government Gazetted employees in Delhi, there are two Boards in existence— one in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospi-

tal and another in Saffdarjung Hospital. For non-gazetted employees other than group 'D' posts there is a standing Medical Board in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. In respect of group 'D' posts, the Authorized Medical Attendants or Medical Officers of the nearest hospital or dispensary possessing the prescribed qualifications can conduct medical examination. All requests for medical examinations are duly registered by the Medical Examination Authorities and candidates are given dates accordingly. No specific case of harassment to candidate has come to notice of Government in this regard.

(b) It is possible to extend the authorisation to other Government Hospitals, in case of non-gazetted employees, if found necessary. But its extension to private doctors is not favoured.

Tri Junction of Sea Boundary Agreement

748. SHRI C. R. MAHATA:

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:

SHRI AMARSINH V.
RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government approved the tri-junction of sea boundary agreement recently; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir. India, Indonesia and Thailand have signed an agreement on 22-6-1978 for the determination of the tri-junction of their sea-bed boundaries in the Andaman Sea.

(b) Since the Agreement is subject to ratification, details cannot be disclosed at this stage.

Opening of Independent Post Offices in Villages

749. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9129 on the 4th May, 1978 and state:

(a) whether any phased programme has now been drawn to open independent Post Offices in about fifteen thousand Gram Panchayat villages in Maharashtra which are still not covered after a long period of thirty years of Independence;

(b) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons thereof and the efforts made specially during the period of last three months to remove the said reasons; and

(c) the prescribed norms for opening an independent Post Office in a particular Gram Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Post offices are opened in the rural areas, including Gram Panchayat villages, on fulfilment of certain prescribed norms as given in the enclosed statement.

It is proposed to provide post offices in such Gram Panchayat villages as will fulfil the prescribed norms, in a phased manner, subject to availability of funds.

(c) At present, there are no separate norms for opening Post Offices in Gram Panchayat villages.

Statement

NORMS FOR OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS.

FOR RURAL AREAS

Post Offices to be opened in rural areas have been classified into the following eight categories:—

(i) Remunerative or self-supporting.