

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) An enquiry was conducted by the Postmaster-General into such an allegation.

(b) The enquiry did not conclusively establish any manhandling of the Union Leaders.

Setting up of National Research Laboratory for development of Indigenous system of medicine in M.P.

4386. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up a National Research Laboratory in Madhya Pradesh for the development of indigenous system of medicine during the Sixth Plan period is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal for setting up the Laboratory and allocation of funds have already been submitted by the State Government; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, there is a proposal to set up a Regional Research Institute in Madhya Pradesh for the development of Ayurveda by amalgamating the following Units and adding a 25 bedded in-door section for carrying out research in clinical medicine:—

1. Survey of Medicinal Plants Unit, Gwalior.

2. Clinical Research Unit (Ayurvedic Team), Gwalior.

3. Clinical Research Unit (Modern Team), Gwalior.

4. Mobile Clinical Research Unit, Vidisha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disparity in Pay Scales of Clerks in Post Offices and Nationalised Banks

4387. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a disparity in the pay scales of clerks working in post offices who handle cheques and saving bank accounts with those clerks handling the same type of job in nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the pay scales of the said clerks in post offices and those in the banks; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring the pay scales of the postal clerks at par with bank clerks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Clerks working in post offices who handle cheques and saving bank accounts do not belong to any separate cadre in the post office but they belong to the general cadre of Post Office Time Scale Clerks. The present scale of pay of Time Scale Clerks in the Post Offices is Rs. 260—8—300—EB—8—340—10—360—12—420—EB—12—480. The scale of pay of Time Scale Clerks in the post office has been fixed taking into account their job contents, qualifications for the post etc. As the job contents, qualifications, etc. of the Post Office Clerk, who is not recruited to exclusively handle cheques and savings bank accounts, are not comparable with that of a Bank Clerk, the question of disparity in pay scales does not arise. The pay scales in the Nationalised Banks of similar staff are being ascertained and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.