

Ltd. (IRCON) and their profits for the last three years are as under:

(Figures in Lakhs of Rupees)

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80 (Prov.)
RITES .	29.00	55.00	200.00
IRCON .	1.68	10.10	5.79

(c) and (d). Profit/loss of these undertakings largely depend on the quantum of contracts secured and performance of the two Companies. Steps continue to be taken to secure more and more assignments as also to improve the performance of the undertakings.

#### 'Life Saving Drug'

6365. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) how many medicines in India have been earmarked by Government as 'Life Saving Drugs'; and

(b) the criteria of determining 'Life Saving Drug'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI Nihar Ranjan Laskar): (a) The Ministry of Health have not adopted the categorisation of drugs as 'Life Saving Drugs' and others.

(b) Does not arise.

#### 'Covering' of Platforms in Kota-Ratlam Section

6366. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many platforms on the Metre Gauge and Broad Gauge on Western Railway in Kota-Ratlam Section of the Broad Gauge and Chittorgarh-Ratlam Section of the Metre Gauge have been covered; and

(b) the action which is being taken by Railways to cover these platforms and to provide public conveniences?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Platform covering (Sheds) have been provided at 12 stations on Kota-Ratlam (B.G.) Section and 9 stations on Chittorgarh-Ratlam (M.G.) Section of Western Railway. Work on the provision of platform covering on one more station (Shamgarh) on Kota-Ratlam Section is in progress. Provision of sheds at other stations, as also augmentation/improvement of the existing facilities at various stations, as necessary, will be taken up in the future, in consultation with Railway Users' Amenities Committee taking into account the needs of traffic and the availability of funds.

#### Appointment of Hindi Officers in Indian Embassies abroad

6367. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Indian Embassies abroad where Hindi Officers have been appointed;

(b) the other countries where Hindi Officers are proposed to be appointed next year; and

(c) the outlines of the comprehensive programme to be chalked out for the propagation of Hindi abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Hindi Officers have been appointed in our Missions in Mauritius, Fiji and Trinidad. The creation of posts of Hindi Officers in our Missions in Burma, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Kenya, Bhutan, Surinam and Guyana is being considered.

(c) The broad outlines of the Scheme for the propagation of Hindi abroad are to promote Hindi writing locally and for this purpose teaching, training and library facilities are provided to foreign nationals. Fellowships are also given for studying Hindi and Hindi teaching methods in India, and through greater cultural contacts the scheme aims at creating a favourable atmosphere for greater worldwide acceptance of Hindi.