

Man-days lost due to strikes in Industrial Sector

1522. SHRI SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of man-days lost in the industrial sector due to strike in the Year 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI (BALGOVIND VERMA): According to the available provisional information, the number of mandays lost due to industrial disputes (strikes and lockouts) during 1974 was 31.27 million.

Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant..

1523. SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into consideration the feasibility report submitted by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited for the expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). It is presumed that the reference is to the expansion of the Plant from 2.5 million ingot tonnes to 4 million ingot tonnes. A Detailed Project Report for this expansion has been submitted by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited. This is under examination by the Steel Authority of India Limited.

The Project Report envisages installation of LD Converters, Continuous Casting facilities and a Plate Mill. The expansion will, on completion, result in the production of 250,000 tonnes of billets for sale and 900,000 tonnes of plates from the additional quantity of ingots produced.

Appointment of Rural Health Assistants

1524. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start the institution of Rural Health Assistants similar to that of Rural Medical practitioners which was considered but dropped some time back;

(b) if so, the qualifications required for being appointed as a Rural Health Assistants, and the sources from where the incumbents will be drawn; and

(c) in view of the assurances given to the pharmacists at the time of abandoning the Rural Medical Practitioners Scheme and on other occasions, the position of the pharmacists vis-a-vis the Rural Health Assistants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) to (c). The proposal regarding the creation of a cadre of Medical and Health Assistants is under examination by a group constituted by the Government of India. No assurances were given to Pharmacists.

Infiltration of Foreign Drug Houses in Indian Medical Colleges and Hospitals

1525. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a National Convention on Drug and Health was held in Delhi which was inaugurated by Union Health Minister;

(b) if so, whether learned medicos and medical scientists spoke against the foreign Drug Houses who have infiltrated the medical colleges to subvert their loyalty and Hospital authorities in the country are persuaded to purchase drugs of doubtful value and even spurious ones; and