

not want to go there while inefficient officers are working there for many years. I would like to know whether able officers would be sent in these areas in place of these inefficient officers.

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : So far as the matter of inefficiency is concerned. If any specific complaint regarding the functioning is received, enquiry would be conducted. The cases related to the working period and transfer of the individuals would be considered at the time of general transfer. As regards your complaint that T.V. has eroded the popularity of radio, in this regard I would like to state that it is not correct rather its popularity is increasing. People do listen to radio as well as watch television.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking only one question. Due to the popularity of Doordarshan big film producers are producing Doordarshan Serials. Whether Ministry is considering to provide some concession in levying fee and time limit to these serial producers who are competing with these producers?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is not a question of new and old. Whoever produces a good programme, time would be allotted to him .... (Interruptions) it is but natural. Money will have to be paid .... (Interruptions)

Sponsored rate would be charged as per norms. It is not a question of producer being new or old. Everything is decided on the basis of the quality of the programme.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Committee on Restructuring of the Airlines

\*267. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee set up by the Government to look into the restructuring of the country's airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the recommendations made by the Committee and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to make the two state owned airlines profit oriented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A Committee of experts was set up to examine the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to formulate a turn around strategy. The Committee has since submitted its report. It has recommended a turn around

strategy and made the following important recommendations:

- (i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees.
- (ii) Fleet Planning.
- (iii) Route Rationalisation.
- (iv) Organisational Restructuring.
- (v) Human Resource Management.

The recommendations are being examined.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

##### Child Labour

\*268. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:  
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Supreme Court judgement ordering ban on employment of Child Labour in hazardous industries and mines only postulates the pious directions of the framers of the Constitution of India articulated in Article 24 and the wishes of the Parliament as embodied in the Child Labour (Prevention and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if not, the further directions given by the Apex Court in this judgement to effectively enforce the ban; and

(c) the steps being taken to carry out the directions of Supreme Court to ban child labour in hazardous jobs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 10.12.96, apart from referring to Article 24 of the Constitution of India and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, has given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from working and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The directions given in the judgement include payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employers for every child employed in hazardous occupations in contravention of the provisions of the Act, giving alternative employment to an adult member of the family in place of the child withdrawn from such hazardous occupations, provision of education in a suitable institution for the children so withdrawn, creation of Child Labour Rehabilitation-cum-Welfare Fund etc.

(c) As a follow up of the directions of the Supreme Court, all the State/UT Governments have been sent detailed guidelines on 26th December 1996 indicating the manner in which the directions of Supreme Court could be given effect to. A conference of States/UTs Labour Ministers was also convened on 22.1.97 to formulate an action plan for the implementation of the directions of Supreme Court on withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children. Based on these deliberations guidelines along with model child labour survey form for carrying out survey as per the directions of the Supreme Court have been sent to the State Governments/UTs. Guidelines also provide for simultaneous action for recovery of the compensation from offending employers.

#### **Multi-purpose Counters in Post Offices**

\*269. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the activities undertaken by multi-purpose counters in Post Offices:

(b) the number of multi-purpose counters opened in post offices in the country and particularly in Gujarat during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more multi purpose counters during 1997; and

(d) if so, the locations thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The PC based multipurpose counter machines in post office provide a range of counter services, both domestic and international, on a "single window" principle.

The services provided through the counter machines are:

Booking of :

(i) Speed Post Articles.

(ii) Registered Articles.

(iii) Parcels.

(iv) Money Orders.

(v) Value payable articles - letters and parcels.

- Acceptance of premia for Postal Life Insurance.

- Issue of Unclassified receipts.

- Receipt for collection of telephone revenue.

The Department has installed 1654 computer based counter machines in the country during the years 1994-95

and 1995-96 and out of these 86 counter machines have been installed in Gujarat.

The programme of computerising counter services with multi purpose counter machines is being continued in the Department's Annual Plan 1996-97 and it is proposed to be continued in the Annual Plan 1997-98 also. The number of multi purpose counter machines planned for installation in 1996-97 is 1500 and in 1997-98 is 1000.

#### **Joint Plant Committee**

\*270. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ministry has constituted an expert group to evaluate the present constitution and role and functions of Joint Plant Committee;

(b) if so, whether the group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of suggestions made;

(d) whether the Government propose to make Iron and Steel Joint Plant Panel broad-based; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel had constituted a Committee on 10.1.1996 under the Chairmanship of Shri Moosa Raza, Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel to go into the question of redefining the organization and functions of the joint Plant Committee (JPC) in the liberalised economic scenario. The Committee has presented its report to the Government on 26.2.1997.

(c) to (e) The major recommendations of the Committee include broad basing of the JPC by including a representative each of the iron and steel plants both in the public and private sector which have a minimum installed capacity of 0.5 million tonnes per annum; co-opting five members at a time in JPC out of the various associations of iron and steel with each of the member association being represented by one member and including representatives from the Ministries of Railways, Surface Transport, Coal and Steel in the JPC.

As regards the functions of the JPC, the Committee recommends that the JPC should be a body to make suitable recommendation to the Government on matters relating to growth and development of steel industry; monitor, evaluate and recommend remedial measures to alleviate infrastructure bottlenecks coming in the way of development of iron and steel, identify areas of fiscal and other policies of different State Government affecting the industry and to make appropriate recommendations thereon; suggest market development strategies; act as an agency for collecting, collating and analysing the data