Welfare of Street Children:

Written Answers

- 24. Bal Sahyog, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- 25. PRAYAS, Jahangirpuri, Delhi.
- 26. Salam Balak Trust, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
- 27. ANKURAN, Janakpuri, New Delhi.
- Indian Council of Child Weifare, Deen Dayal Upadyay Marg, New Delhi.
- 29. Sewa Bharathi, Jhandewalan, New Delhi.

Fitting/Purchase of AIDS and Appliances for the Disabled :

- Amarjyoti Charitable Trust, Karkardooma, Vikas Marg, Delhi.
- 31. Delhi Council of Child Welfare, Delhi.
- All India Federation for Deaf, Rama Krishna Marg, Delhi.
- 33. Delhi Midtown Rotary Service Trust, New Delhi. •

Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities :

- 1. Hamdard Study Circle, New Delhi.
- 2. SOFED Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.
- 3. S.N. Das Gupta College, New Delhi.
- 4. Rao's IAS Study Circles, New Delhi.
- 5. Employment Today, New Delhi.
- 6. Sachdeva New PT College, New Delhi.
- Delhi Public College of Competition, New Delhi.

[English]

Revamped Public Distribution System

- 2561. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the revamped public distribution system introduced in drought prone and under developed regions of the country is in deep trouble as at present;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that as per the recent review of the system the grain offtake between April and December 1995 was down by more than a million tonne and there was a gap of 30% between allocation and offtake in various States under the scheme;
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken to improve the working of the system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV):
(a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) and (d). The off-take of foodgrains is less than the allocation during the period because of easy availability of grains in the open market at prices comparable to the Issue Prices.
- (e) Government proposes to streamline the PDS, with its focus on the poor and issue foodgrains to the population below the poverty line at specially subsidised prices.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited

- 2562. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:.
- (a) whether any Australian company pulling out of the proposed gold mines venture of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in Kolar;
- (b) whether earlier another foreign company backtracked on its decision to scout for gold in Kolar;
- (c) whether the Government propose to proceed further in the matter apart from ploughing more funds into the company; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government to the new revival plan submitted by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), the operating agency appointed by the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstructions (BIFR)?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b). On the basis of the offers received against global tender floated by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), two foreign Companies were shortlisted. BGML signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the preferred shortlisted Company. Subsequently, this Company backed out from the joint venture proposal. Negotiations with the next shortlisted party also did not materialise.

(c) and (d). The revised rehabilitation proposal formulated by BGML and submitted to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) is yet to be received by the Government.

Film Industry, Bangalore

- 2563. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state
- (a) whether the Government propose to start a Film and Television Institute in Bangalore;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the World Bank assistance is likely to be sought for the proposed Institute; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Commodities

2564. SHRI PARASRAM BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of steep rise in prices of vegetables/fruits/polypack milk, the Government propose to allow fair price shops to handle these acommodities by arranging supplies from production centres from rural areas to benefit producers and consumers; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Telephone Exchanges in Barellly

2565. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the strowger system of telephone exchange in Bereilly, Uttar Pradesh has been declared obsolete;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is proposed to be replaced by a new telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c). The STrowger Exchange of Bereilly was first installed in 1977 with a capacity of 3000 lines and expanded upto 10,000 lines. This exchange has since been replaced and all lines transferred to E-10b Electronic Exchange by December, 1995.

Speed Post Service in Azamgarh, U.P.

2566. DR. BAILRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'speed post' service is available in uttar Pradesh particularly in Azamgarh district;
 - (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Speed Post Service on the National Network is available in 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh.

These are Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Speed Post Service has not yet been provided in Azamgarh District

Written Answers

- (b) Under Speed Post network, only a specific city/ town, and not the entire district, is connected. Moreover, justification for introducing this service in a town depends on operational feasibility and financial viability.
 - (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

Non functioning of Steel Plant

- (a) whether the MESCO Steel Plant in district Tajpur, Orissa has been functioning;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c). According to information made available by the State Govt. of Orissa, the following two steel plants are proposed to be set up by the Mesco Group at Integrated Industrial Complex, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa:

| S. Name of the Unit | Capacity (Million TPA) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mideast Integrated Steel Limited | Ph.I : 0.50 (Pig Iron) Ph.II : 1.20 (Steel) |
| Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited | Ph.I : 2.25 (Pig Iron & Steel) Ph.II : 4.50 (-do-) |

As reported by the State Govt., the first phase of the Mideast Integrated Steel Limited's project is expected to be commissioned in August, 1996.

Delivery of Money Order

2568. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the payment against the money-orders sent by the people are not made in time particularly in hilly and remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in this regard during the last two years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) the number of guilty postal employees punished; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure early delivery of money orders?