Opening of New Post Offices in Thane District of Maharashtra

567. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of post offices/sub-post offices in Thane district of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) 5 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices which were sanctioned under the Annual Plan 1990-91 will be opened in 1991-92.

(ii) Besides, it is proposed to open 10 more Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 4 Departmental Sub-Post offices in Thane District during 1991-92.

Supply of Steel to Small Scale Industries

568. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale industries are not supplied steel at Government controlled rates in proportion to their requirements; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to supply adequate quantity of steel to small scale industries at controlled rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) There is no Government controlled rate for iron and steel. Prices of certain categories of iron steel are fixed by the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and those materials are distributed in terms of the Distribution Guidelines of JPC. JPC categories of materials are supplied to small scale industrial units either through Small Scale Industries Corporations (SSICs) of States/Union Territories concerned or directly by the main producers at the prices fixed by JPC. Actual supplies of different categories of iron and steel to individual units depend upon the availability with the main producers.

Forged Passports

569. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases where forged passports were detected by the Government during the last three years, year-wise; and