

(a) whether Netherlands has offered telecommunication computers to India recently, if so, the cost of such a computer :

(b) the mode payment involved ; and

(c) the Centres where these are to be installed ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir. The Netherlands Government have offered to supply to India a message-switching telecommunication computer costing about 1.5 million U. S. dollars.

(b) As the equipment is being received in India under the Voluntary Assistance Programme of the World Meteorological Organisation, no payment is involved.

(c) The computer will be installed at the headquarters of the Meteorological Department at New Delhi.

#### Doing away with Privileges of I. C. S. Officers

\*277. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether final decision has been taken to do away with the privileges of I. C. S. Officers ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) and (b) The Government of India have decided to introduce a Bill in Parliament to provide for the deletion of Article 314 of the Constitution which, *inter alia*, protects certain special conditions of service of former members of the erstwhile Indian Civil Service, and to take necessary incidental, supplemental and consequential measures.

#### Plastic Containers for Packing Industrial and other Materials

\*278. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the question of using plastic containers for packing industrial and other materials ; and

(b) if so, how much foreign exchange would be saved as a result thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) :** (a) and (b) . While there is no specific proposal as such under consideration, it is the general policy of Government to encourage such substitution. However, Indian Standards Institution has evolved standard prescribing requirements, methods sampling and tests for polyethylene containers of nominal capacity of 5 litres and above. The containers manufactured in terms of this standard can be used for transporting liquids including medicines, synthetic detergents, vegetable oils, fruit juices, glycerine, petroleum products, mineral oils, non-oxidising organic acids etc. Although there will be some reduction in the import of tin plates through greater use of PVC plastic containers the extent of saving in foreign exchange on this account is difficult to determine.

#### Stoppage of Subsidy to News Agencies not Implementing the Wage Board's Recommendations

\*279. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to stop the subsidy to those News Agencies, which have not implemented the Wage Board's recommendations ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) :** (a) No subsidy is granted by Government to news agencies. All India Radio and other Government subscribers are paying subscriptions to news agencies, on mutually agreed terms, for the news services they use.

(b) Does not arise.