

(b) if so, whether the Foundation has urged the Government to augment the finance for the programme; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). There is no Organisation called the "Leprosy Foundation of India". Some representatives of the 'National Leprosy Organisation India' however, met me on 21-5-1977 and made some suggestions concerning national leprosy control programme. They have also sent those suggestions in writing.

(c) The suggestions are being examined.

Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act

*376. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the workers involved in serious accidents are deprived of legitimate compensation under Schedule IV of section 3 of the Workmen's Compensation Act; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to give them full benefit of the compensation by correctly assessing the percentage of disablement?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Sir, No such complaint has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on opening of Branch Post Offices in Rural Areas

*377. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on opening of Branch Post Offices in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) No, Sir. There is no ban on opening of Branch Post Offices in the rural areas. Post Offices are continuing to be opened. 1,048 Post Offices were opened in the rural areas in 1975-76 and 2,028 in 1976-77. This year, it is proposed to open 3,100 branch post offices in the rural areas.

(b) Does not arise.

Boycotting of Pay by I.T.I. Employees, Palghat

*378. SHRI B. K. NAIR;
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of Indian Telephone Industries, Palghat have boycotted their pay last month; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) and (b). The workers did not take their salary on 1st June, 1977, to press their demands for grace time for late attendance, short leave in units of less than half a day and provision of company transport or subsidy allowance in lieu thereof. They took their salary on the 2nd June, 1977.

Money Order Commission Charges

*379. SHRI MUKUNDA MONDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the exorbitant money-order commission charges are affecting the vast poor section in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to reduce the charges; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) The money order commission is not exorbitant. The revenue earned by the commission is much less than the cost incurred in handling the money orders. The department has been incurring a loss of approximately Rs. 5 crores annually on this service.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार के कब्जे वाले हीरे का प्राप्त किया जाना

* 380. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने, केन्द्र सरकार से राज्य में जन्त किए गए 85 कैरट (17 ग्राम) के हीरे को लेने के लिए कहा था ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने वह हीरा प्राप्त कर लिया था और यदि हाँ, तो किन शर्तों पर ; और

(ग) हीरे के बारे में विवरण क्या है तथा हीरा किस प्रकार और कहाँ पाया गया ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री बीजू पटनायक) : (क) शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्रालय (संस्कृति विभाग) को दिसम्बर, 1975 में राज्य सरकार से एक सन्देश मिला जिसमें पूछा गया था कि क्या भारत सरकार एक बिना तराशे हीरे को संग्रहालय में सुरक्षित रखने हेतु लेना चाहती है।

(ख) जी नहीं। हीरा अब हैदराबाद संग्रहालय में है।

(ग) यह बिना तराशा हीरा आंध्र प्रदेश के अनंतपुर जिले में कल्याण दुर्ग तालुक के थोटाकल गांव के सर्वे नं० 158 में श्री बी० केसानायक को अपना खेत जोतते समय 13 जुलाई, 1972 को मिला था। यह हीरा बिना

तराशा हुआ पारदर्शी तथा कुछ मटमैला रंग का है जिस पर पीली धारियाँ हैं, जिसका आकार नोकदार तथा वजन लगभग 85 कैरट (17 ग्राम) है।

Modified Plan for eradicating Malaria

*381. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM:
SHRI ANANT DAVE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 9th May, 1977 to the effect that the Central Government's modified plan for eradicating Malaria remains still on paper in most of the States although its implementation should have started by the 1st April this year;

(b) the salient features of the modified plan;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the plan; and

(d) whether all the State Governments have accorded their sanction to the plan and if not, the names of States which have not so far done so and their views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a), (c) and (d). Yes, Sir, Government's attention has been invited to the news item referred to. More than 50 per cent of the State Governments and Union Territories have already accorded sanction to the implementation of the modified plan of operation for controlling Malaria. However, the following States and Union Territories have yet to give necessary sanctions:

- (1) Bihar, (2) Himachal Pradesh
- (3) Kerala (4) Maharashtra (5) Manipur (6) Meghalaya (7) Orissa
- (8) Tripura (9) Uttar Pradesh (10) West Bengal (11) Arunachal Pradesh and (12) Delhi.