

Postal facility in rural areas

*355. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have made any survey for setting up Postal facility centres within a radius of 10 Kms. in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the number of Post Offices likely to be set up under the scheme and the time by which the new Post Offices will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Participation of Indian High Commission in the receptions of Smt. Gandhi

*356. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian High Commission in London, and the Indian High Commissioner there in particular, took any direct or indirect part in one or more programmes and functions in which Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister, was a guest speaker or a guest;

(b) if so, full facts thereof;

(c) reasons for such official recognition of and participation in the said programmes; and

(d) whether Indians in India and/or in Britain lodged any protest at such official involvement by the Indian High Commission and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commissioner received an invitation to be a speaker at the Indo-British Association dinner on November 16th, 1978, in honour of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Prince Charles, which he accepted. The High Commissioner spoke on Shri Nehru's contribution to India and his unflinching belief in "Independence with freedom" and also made some reference to the present health and vigour of Indian democracy "after its temporary eclipse".

(c) The High Commissioner attended the dinner as it was organised in honour of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Prince Charles.

(d) It is reported by our Mission that only one critical letter was received regarding the High Commissioner's participation. Government support our High Commissioner's decision since the meeting was in honour of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Prince Charles.

सल्फ्यूरिक एसिड सस्ती दरों पर बेचा जाना

* 357. श्री भानु कुमार शास्त्री : क्या इत्यात श्रीर खान मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हिन्दुस्तान जिक लिमिटेड, उदयपुर के प्रबन्धकों ने जनवरी, से अप्रैल, 1976 तक की अवधि में सल्फ्यूरिक एसिड बिना टेंडर मंगाये 461.00 रुपए प्रति टन की दर से बेचा था यद्यपि उस का बाजार मूल्य 1000 रु० से 1200 रु० प्रति टन के बीच था ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रबन्धकों द्वारा उपरोक्त कंपनी को इस प्रकार कितनी हानि पहुंचाई गई ?

इत्यात श्रीर खान मंत्री (श्री बीजू पटनायक) :

(क) सीमित संभरण सुविधाओं के कारण सल्फ्यूरिक एसिड के स्टॉक के जमा हो जाने की वजह से प्रदायक के बन्द होने से बचान के लिए, हिन्दुस्तान जिक लिमिटेड ने अपने बेचारी ब्रह्मक से जनवरी-मार्च, 1978 में 461 प्रति मीट्रिक टन के कारखाना बाह्य मूल्य पर अनुबंधित खरीदारों को सीमित मात्रा में सल्फ्यूरिक एसिड बेचा। यह मूल्य 23 फरवरी, 1978 से बढ़ा कर 480 रु० प्रति मीट्रिक टन कर दिया गया जिसमें उपरोक्त मूल्य और भी कम था।