

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) : (a) and (b).

1. *Automatic Exchanges* : There is an acute shortage of automatic exchange equipment. It has therefore not been possible to establish automatic exchanges in replacement of existing manual exchanges as fast as is desired by the public as well as the department. A phased programme for establishment of auto-exchanges is being followed. In this programme, priorities have been given to State Capitals and District Headquarters.

Dharamsala and Chamba being district headquarters, automatic exchange equipment has been programmed for them for supply during 1978-79 and 1979-80 respectively. The exchanges are expected to be commissioned during 1980 and 1981.

Palampur not being a District headquarter will have to wait for some time more till supplies of auto equipment get augmented.

2. *Microwave* : While no microwave link is planned for any of these stations, a multi-channel UHF link has been planned on the Dharamsala-Jullundur route. This is expected to be commissioned by 1980.

Another UHF link Chamba-Dalhousie is being planned. This will be taken up a little later during 1978-83 roll on plan.

Trunk traffic being low, no microwave/UHF link is being planned from Palampur for the time being. However traffic is being reviewed from time to time and a system will be planned as soon as found viable.

#### **Opening of Provident Fund Office at Port Blair**

3138. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which the proposed provident fund office at Port Blair has not been opened so far;

(b) whether a number of provident fund cases due to irregularities committed by the employers are pending with the Commissioner of Provident Fund, West Bengal; and

(c) what specific action has been taken by Government against the management M/s Albion Plywood for their failure to deposit provident fund dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA) : (a) It has been decided to open an Inspectorate Office at Port Blair. An officer has been relieved by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, West Bengal to take over charge at Port Blair. The Office will start functioning very shortly.

(b) and (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

#### **Scheme for Educating Rural Workers**

3139. DR. P. V. PERIASAMY : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the scheme initiated by the Central Board of Workers Education for educating rural workers ;

(b) the locations of the proposed seven pilot projects ; and

(c) whether this programme is likely to be extended to 40 centres of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA) : (a) The broad purpose of the Scheme is to promote among rural workers a critical awareness of the problems of their socio-economic environment and their rights and obligations as workers, as members of the village community and as citizens ; and to help them to assume an effective and responsible role in solving their problems. Under this Scheme, pilot projects from 7 Regional Centres of the Board are to be conducted in 1977-78. These projects would cover landless labourers, agricultural workers, rural artisans, forest and fisheries labour, marginal peasants, educated unemployed in rural areas and tribal labour. The topics to be covered will amongst other things, have a bearing on :

(i) Peasant Movement and Rural Workers Organisations ;

(ii) Rural Development and Transformation ;

(iii) Social and Legislative Measures including Land Reforms ;

(iv) Co-operative Education ; and

(v) Population Education and Family Welfare.

(b) The locations where the pilot projects have been conducted/are proposed to be conducted are :

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ahmedabad Regional Centre.  | 1. Devdholera Village Distt. Ahmedabad. |
|                                | 2. Zamp Village Distt. Ahmedabad.       |
| 2. Bareilly Regional Centre.   | 1. Jeolikote Distt. Nainital.           |
|                                | 2. Bizamau Village Distt. Bareilly.     |
| 3. Bilai Regional Centre.      | 1. Chadahkuri Distt. Raipur.            |
|                                | 2. Being surveyed.                      |
| 4. Jamshedpur Regional Centre. | 1. Khunti Distt. Ranchi.                |
|                                | 2. Bahragora Distt. Singhbhum.          |
| 5. Mangalore Regional Centre.  | 1. Mangalore Distt. South Kanara        |
|                                | 2. Gazinur Distt. Shimoga.              |
| 6. Nagpur Regional Centre      | 1. Selsura Village Distt. Wardha.       |
|                                | 2. Sindewahi Village Distt. Ghandrapur. |
| 7. Tezpur Regional Centre.     | Locations being surveyed.               |

(c) This will be considered on the basis of the experience gained from the pilot projects.

#### Edible oils imported from Malaysia and Singapore

3140. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindu' dated 1-10-1977 that some consignments of edible oils imported from Malaysia and Singapore into Madras have been found to be sub-standard ;

(b) whether the Customs and Port Health Authorities have air dashed their samples to Calcutta for a second check by the Central Food Laboratory ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### स्टील की चादरों की किस्म

3141. श्री उपसेन : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हमारे देश में बनने वाली स्टेनलेस स्टील की चादरें जापान, पोलैण्ड, पश्चिम जर्मनी तथा अन्य देशों की तुलना में घटिया स्तर की और उनसे चार गुना महंगी हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी किस्म मुधारने और कीमत कम करने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कड़िया मुण्डा) : (क) देश में उत्पादित बेदाग इस्पात की चादरों के अन्ततः उपयोग की कुछ संश्लिष्ट मर्दों में काम आने वाली चादरें क्वालिटी की विशिष्टियों के अनुरूप हैं । फिर भी, अन्ततः उपयोग की सभी मर्दों की क्वालिटी की आवश्यकताएं पूरी करना संभव नहीं है ।

विभिन्न देशों में उत्पादन लागत भिन्न-भिन्न है लेकिन बेदाग इस्पात की