

tions in this respect have still to be conducted and the terms and conditions for signing of appropriate contracts discussed.

(b) and (c): Too early to answer as negotiations have not yet commenced.

Setting up of Rural Steel Distribution Centres

274. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a scheme for setting up rural steel distribution centres in all parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether special emphasis has been given there under to the opening of such rural steel distribution centres in the tribal areas of Tripura and other States and Union Territories in the north-east; and

(c) the number of such centres opened and to be opened in each of these States/Territories under the scheme and proportion it bears to the rural population in these States and in the country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Representation for Abolition of Orderlies

275. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received representations for abolition of Orderly practices in the army on the lines as has been done recently in the police so as to discourage the use of combatants for domestic services; and

(b) if so, what decision have Government taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b): No such representations have been received from any serving personnel. Orderlies are authorised for officers and JCOs for performing various military duties like carrying and operating wireless set, providing personal protection in battle, custody of personal weapon and military equipment and digging of trenches etc. However, some instances of the misuse of Orderlies or other than authorised duties have come to the notice of Government. The attention of the Chief of the Army Staff has been drawn to this and suitable directions have been issued by the Army Headquarters in the matter stressing that deterrent action will be taken against any officer or JCO misusing Orderlies and that the facility of Orderlies will be withdrawn from such offending officer or JCO.

A.I.R. stations broadcasting lessons in Punjabi

276. SHRI G. S. TOHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of A.I.R. stations which broadcast lessons in the Punjabi language; and

(b) the duration of each lesson?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b): The information is being collected from A.I.R. Stations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ex-servicemen in Maharashtra

277. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Ex-servicemen in the State of Maharashtra as on 30th June, 1979;