

'D' posts after a specific period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Government are aware that there are some cadres in Group 'C' and 'D' posts without promotional avenues or with inadequate promotional prospects.

(b) and (c). In Central Government, posts at various levels are created on need-based considerations. In case posts at promotional levels are not functionally justified/required, the same may not be created simply to provide more promotional avenues and for removing stagnation. However, based on the demand of the Staff Side of National Council (JCM), the Government is examining whether at least one promotion in the service career of the Group 'C' and 'D' Government servants can be provided.

[*Translation*];

Sale by Maganese ore India Ltd.

*1007. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manganese Ore India Ltd. sold last year manganese ore to a firm much below the prevailing international rate;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum was received from the manganese Ore India Ltd. Staff Welfare Association alleging malpractice in the deal;

(d) if so, whether the allegations have been enquired into; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the

corrective steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The allegations were looked into and were found to be not substantiated.

[*English*]

Japanese Aid to India

10401. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Prime Minister who visited India in April has decided for a marginal increase in bilateral aid to India;

(b) if so, to what extent it has been increased; and

(c) the other decisions taken on economic aid to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). During his recent visit the Japanese Prime Minister had indicated that Government of Japan is likely to extend Yen Loans in the region of about Yen 100 billion in the current financial year. This represents an increase of Yen 3.29 billion over the last year's commitment of Yen 96.7 billion Yen.

Closed Rolling Mills in Bihar

10402. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the rolling mills lying

closed in Dhanbad district of Bihar?

(b) the amount of capital blocked and the persons unemployed as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for closure; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reopen these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Temporary Employees in Ranchi Doordarshan Kendra

10403. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some temporary employees in Doordarshan Kendra, Ranchi are working there since its inception but they are not being made permanent;

(b) whether these employees are not being paid even the minimum wages;

(c) whether Government propose to make them permanent; and

(d) if so, when and the steps being taken to pay the minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some employees have been engaged, on casual basis, against those posts which have not been filled up on regular basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The rules do not permit the appointment of casual employees, on a regular basis, unless they compete for regular appointment.

(d) Does not arise.

Poppy Cultivation In Rajasthan

10404. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give 'Pattas' to the farmers engaged in poppy cultivation in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this cultivation is a source of improvement in the economic condition of farmers and foreign exchange is also earned thereby;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to increase its production;

(e) whether Government contemplate to set up a factory based on poppy in Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). License for poppy cultivation are issued in October/November to the farmers who are eligible for such licence in accordance with the conditions for grant of licence decided by the Government every year. Opium poppy cultivation is a source of improvement of the economic condition of farmers and foreign exchange is also earned by the Government of India from export of opium to foreign countries. Production of opium in India is mainly export oriented. Indian opium has been facing stiff competition in the inter-