

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-