

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). The matter falls predominantly in the State sphere. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to take effective steps for the enforcement of the notified minimum wages. Strengthening the administrative set up, utilising the services of staff of Departments like Revenue, Agricultural, Rural Development, in addition to those of Labour Departments and increasing the number of claims authorities have been some of the measures that have been taken.

Outstanding Telephone Bills of former Ministers and Members of Parliament

*74. **SHRI SHEO SAMPAT:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of telephone bills outstanding against each former Central Minister and former Member of Parliament and the period for which the amount relates;

(b) the steps taken to realise the amount in full; and

(c) whether it is proposed to start some legal proceedings against the defaulters for realisation of the amount and if so, particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). The information sought covers more than 60 former Ministers and 500 former Members of Parliament. The outstanding dues on private account of these former Ministers and former Members of Parliament involves scanning of a large number of bills in respect of telephones spread all over India. This is being arranged and the information about the outstanding amounts and the steps being taken for realising the amounts as per the rules of the Department is being col-

lected from the Units and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Reduction in Prices of Steel Products in Stock

*75. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the prices of steel products in stock with the public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, the normal stock that each of these plants can have;

(c) the present stock position in each of these plants; and

(d) the extent to which prices are proposed to be lowered?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) There is no proposal to reduce the price of steel in stock with the public sector steel plants. However, temporary rebates were given in certain slow moving categories and/or damaged/rusted products.

(b) Considering the present production and sales programme for the year, a stock of about 1 million tonne with SAIL Group in the whole system—at the plants, in transit and at the stockyards (home & Export) is considered normal as detailed below:—

	Tonnes
At Plants . . .	225,000
At Home Stockyards . . .	415,000
At Export Yards . . .	100,000
In transit . . .	250,000
	990,000

or say one million tonnes.

(c) Stock position as on 31-5-77 at each of these plants is indicated below:—

	(In '000 tonnes)
1. Bhilai	89.1
2. Rourkela	65.8
3. Durgapur	42.6
4. Bokaro	28.3
5. IISCO	19.0

(d) SAIL International is authorised to adjust prices from time to time depending on internal and external demands.

Release of Pakistani Nationals

*76. SHRI K. MALLANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have decided to release 200 Pakistani nationals detained in India on various charges;

(b) if so, whether some Indian nationals are also in custody of Pakistan at present; and

(c) if so, their number and position regarding their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Government of India have decided to release 188 Pakistani nationals detained in India.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. According to present information, their number is around 90. Pakistan has so far confirmed the detention of 37 persons. Arrangements are underway for their repatriation. The position of the remaining persons has yet to be verified and confirmed by the Government of Pakistan.

बिहार में काला-ज्वर महामारी

* 77. श्री राम बिलास पासवान : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार राज्य के वैशाली जिले में काला-ज्वर का भीषण प्रकोप है;

(ख) क्या हजारों लोगों की काला-ज्वर में मृत्यु हो चुकी है;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार उक्त महामारी को रोकने में प्रयत्न में है;

(घ) क्या सदस्य ने इस बारे में पहले ही लिखित सूचना दी थी; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उक्त रोग को रोकने के निम्न केंद्रीय सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राज नागयण): (क) बिहार सरकार द्वारा भेजी गई सूचना के अनुसार 9-6-77 तक वैशाली जिले में काला-ज्वर में 186 व्यक्तियों के पीड़ित होने के समाचार मिले हैं।

(ख) वर्ष 1976 में वैशाली जिले में काला-ज्वर से 8 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु होने के समाचार मिले थे किन्तु न तो वर्ष 1975 में प्रथम न अथवा न 1977 में ऐसी कोई मृत्यु हुई बताई गई है।

(ग) जी नहीं, राज्य सरकार द्वारा पहले से ही कार्यवाही की जा रही है। उन्होंने वैशाली जिले को पर्याप्त मात्रा में अफेजिन दवाई दे दी है।

(घ) जी हां।

(ङ) इस बीमारी को रोकना मुख्यतः राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है और राज्य सरकार को आवश्यक सुविधाएँ और धन को व्यवस्था करने का अनुरोध कर दिया गया है।