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*524. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation from the All India University Employees' Confederation for the inclusion of nonteaching employees of the universities in the definition of 'worker' in the comprehensive labour legislation proposed to be brought before Parliament in the near future; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to grant security of service to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The entire question is under examination in connection with the legislative proposals that are being formulated in the light of the views contained in the Report of the Tripartite Committee on Comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and Composition of the Indian Labour Conference. Legislative action will be taken in the matter after a decision is taken in this regard.

Sale of steel by the public sector steel plants

*525. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the details of the sales of Steel by public sector steel plants within the country in terms of value and quantity during the period from April to June, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): During the period April—June, 1977, the public sector steel plants sold 1.218 million tonnes of steel valued at Rs. 258.97 crores approximately within the country.

Public Call Offices

*526. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI:

SHRI GULAB RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of public call offices in the country at present;
- (b) the revenue collected from P.C.Os. during the six months preceding and following the 1st April, 1977;
- (c) whether it is a fact that collections on this account are gradually decreasing; and
- (d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):
(a) The number of long-distance public call offices in the country as on 30-9-77 was 6760

- (b) The revenue collected from long-distance P.C.Os. during the period October, 1976 to March, 1977 was Rs. 50.47 lakhs and during the period April, 1977 to September, 1977 Rs. 47.53 lakhs.
 - (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) In pursuance of the policy for opening P.C.Os. at all Block Head-quarters and other rural places on loss, more and more P.C.Os. are being opened on loss while the P.C.Os. earning more revenue are being converted into telephone exchange due to demand for local telephones. Provision of telephone facility at underdeveloped areas by long distance P.C.Os. even on loss at certain categories of stations is a deliberate policy of the Department.