

Price of indigenous steel

*103. SHRI S. KUMARAN:

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri J. R. D. Tata has made a plea for increasing the price of indigenous steel; and

(b) if so, on what grounds and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YA-DAV): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important grounds are that:

(i) for a large proportion of total steel supply the producer does not recover even the manufacturing cost. Shri Tata has made a plea for an economic price structure by higher prices or by lower excise duty or by a combination of both.

(ii) a realistic pricing policy should be formulated which would enable the steel industry not only to maintain the efficiency of its plants but also to modernise them as they age and become obsolete.

Government, however, do not propose to increase the prices of indigenous steel at present.

Opening of Post Offices in North Bihar

*104. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR:

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI

SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in opening new post offices in

North Bihar; and

(b) what is the number of requests received for opening new post offices in that region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ((DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b) Post Office have been opened in North Bihar in respect of proposals which were justified according to the norms of the Department. At present, 76 requests for opening new post offices are under consideration

.105. [Transferred to the 19th August, 1976].

Establishment of Telecommunication Factory in Madhya Pradesh

*106. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SAKHALECHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government have forwarded any proposal to the Central Government for setting up a telecommunication equipment factory in Madhya Pradesh during the Fifth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ((DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Government have suggested certain sites for the setting up of a unit of Indian Telephone industries.

(c) The question of location of the new units of Indian Telephone Industries proposed to be set up during the Fifth Five Year Plan period is under consideration.