

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The question of diversification of Durgapur Steel Plant product-mix is being examined and the Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Limited have been asked to prepare a report on it.

Computerised Billing of Telephone Bills

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

(a) whether it is a fact that computers have been installed in offices of the P&T department for preparing telephone bills in Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay and other major cities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that computerised bills have been found to be generally inaccurate causing inconvenience to subscribers; and

(c) if so, whether Government are reconsidering to revert to the manual system of billing.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Telephone billing is being done through Computers, arranged on Service Bureau or Block Time basis, at Bombay, Delhi & Madras. Partial computerisation of Telephone bills is also done at Calcutta on Service Bureau basis.

(b) No, Sir. The computerised bills sometimes have discrepancies but the incidence is nominal and in any case it is not more than that in bills prepared manually.

(c) No, Sir.

Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labour in Gujarat

*381. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

SHRI NARASIMHA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the progress so far made in the implementation of the minimum wages fixed for agricultural labour in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : Minimum Wages for agricultural workers have been revised upwards to Rs. 5.50 per day with effect from 5th January, 1976 by the Government of Gujarat. For effective enforcement of these wages, the State Government have appointed Government Labour Officers, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Deputy Labour Commissioners, Inspectors of Factory, Department Officers of Revenue Department and all Taluka Development Officers, as Inspectors under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. A total of 2434 inspections were carried out between

January 1976 and June, 1976 by this machinery, as a result of which 50 prosecutions were launched and payment of a total amount of Rs. 29,758.68 to the agricultural labourers as a difference of wage was secured.

Man-Hours lost due to lay-offs and strikes

*382. SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA :

SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of man-hours lost from 1st July, 1975 to 30th June, 1976 due to lay-offs, and strikes in the country; and

(b) the number of workers who were thrown out of employment due to retrenchment and closures in big industries specially jute, engineering, textile, cement and automobiles during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Details regarding the number of strikes which took place during the period July, 1975 to June, 1976 and mandays lost due to these strikes have been given in statement. [See Appendix XCVII, Annexure No. 77] Statement II gives industry-wise information relating to workers affected by lay-offs. [See Appendix XCVII, Annexure No. 78]. Information on time loss due to lay-offs is not available.

(b) Information regarding the number of workers affected by retrenchment in major industries and in selected industries viz., Engineering, Textiles, Cement and Transport Equipment and Parts during the period July to December, 1975 and January to June, 1976 is given in statements III and IV respectively. [See Appendix XCVII, Annexures Nos. 79 and 80]. Similar information in respect of closures is not available by industries. However, the State-wise figures of the number of workers affected by closures have been given in Statement V for the period July, 1975 to June, 1976. [See Appendix XCVII, Annexure No. 81]

Nature of passport cases referred to the Ministry of External Affairs

*383. SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL art
PIARE LALL TALIB :

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :

SHRI D. Y. PAWAR :

SHRI BRAHMANANDA
PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :