

pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 262 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1975 and state:

(a) whether a scheme for assessing the quantity and quality of tin deposits in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh has been formulated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for the exploration of the mineral in that areas?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the investigations conducted and programmed by the Geological Survey of India including regional mapping, geochemical surveys, drilling and preliminary mining, stream sediment sampling, detailed mapping, etc., the State Directorate of Geology & Mining is conducting detailed exploration of the tin deposits with the assistance of Geological Survey of India which is providing necessary technical expertise.

#### **Proper cancellation of stamps on letters**

**601. SHRI S. KUMARAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that letters are being delivered by the postal department without properly cancelling the stamps affixed on them;

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA):** (a) and (b) No such general complaint has come to notice.

#### **†Closure of Mini Poly Steel Plant of Bhavnagar**

**602. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the date of closure of mini poly steel plant of Bhavnagar;

(b) whether workers who have been rendered unemployed have been given lay-off; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the workers have been paid their arrears of wages, provident fund and gratuity; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in restarting the plant?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) to (d) According to the information made available by the Government of Gujarat, the management had laid-off 359 employees from August 26, 1975, reported reason for lay-off being uneconomic production and circumstances beyond the control of the management. The unit closed down on October 20, 1975. As reported by the State Government, workers concerned have been paid arrears of wages, notice pay, retrenchment compensation etc. and gratuity is not payable in this case. As for provident fund, applications are pending with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner. Gujarat High Court have appointed an Official Liquidator and offers have been invited to restart the mill.

#### **Indians receiving compensation for property left in Uganda**

**603. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of Indians likely to receive compensation as a result of

†Transferred from the 18th March, 1976 (Previously numbered as Unstarred Question No. 334).

the agreement reached with the Government of Uganda for property and assets they have left behind in that country?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):** It is expected that about 2,000 persons of Indian nationality are likely to be paid compensation in India. Further about 750 persons may obtain restoration or reimbursement of their claims in respect of gratuity, salaries, dues from Government or parastatal organisations, baggage and restoration of contents in safe deposit vaults and lockers, through diplomatic and official channels.

#### **Rehabilitation of Indian repatriates from Burma**

**604. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indians so far expelled from Burma;

(b) what steps Government have taken to rehabilitate them as well as to secure compensation for the assets they have left behind in Burma;

(c) what was the amount of cash balances of these Indians frozen in the banks in Burma,

(d) whether any negotiations with the Government of Burma are going on in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):** (a) Persons of Indian origin have not been expelled from Burma. They have left Burma on their own accord following nationalisation of properties of foreigners. Since June, 1963, according to available information, 206,940 persons have arrived in India from Burma.

(b) to (e) A number of schemes, such as business loans, housing loans, resettlement in agriculture, employment in industries and grant of educational concessions

have been undertaken by the Department of Rehabilitation for the assets left by them. Compensation has been the subject of exchanges between the Governments of India and Burma since 1964. On December 6, 1973 the Burmese Government issued a notification stating that compensation would be paid in respect of national and foreign-owned enterprises nationalised under the Business Nationalisation Law, 1963 and the Socialist Economic System Establishment Law, 1965. In response to this notification applications were submitted by claimants. As far as we know no payments have been made until now.

(c) No authentic estimate is available.

#### **Amount collected as deposit for telephone connections from Delhi**

**605. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected as deposits from applicants who applied for telephone connections under O.Y.T. and general category telephones before September, 1975 in Delhi;

(b) the number of applications on waiting list under OYT and General Category on each exchange in Delhi together with the earliest priority date; and

(c) by when all the depositors registered till September, 1975 in Delhi are expected to be given connections with particular reference to the years 1969 and 1970?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA):** (a) In Delhi, an amount of about Rs. 10 crores has been collected under the Advance Deposit Scheme from OYT and Non-OYT applicants. This covers the applicants who applied for telephones before September, 1975 and also those who applied between 1-9-1975 and 15-3-1976.

(b) The date for payment of the advance deposit expired on 15-3-76 and the waiting lists are being recast. The requisite information will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is ready.