

of the nationalised banks which have been opened in the rural areas so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : According to information received so far, 394 offices have been opened by the nationalised banks at rural centres (i.e. places with a population upto 10,000) since nationalisation upto the 31st March, 1970.

HOSPITALS IN DELHI

***470. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 25th April, 1970 in which it was stated that the hospitals in Delhi are inadequately equipped ;

(b) if so, the number of beds in each Government hospital at present and the number of beds added in each hospital during the last two years year-wise ;

(c) whether it is a fact that it is very difficult to get a bed in these hospitals for an ordinary patient ; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to provide adequate facilities in these hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of beds at present in each Government Hospitals in Delhi open to general public is as under :—

Safdarjang Hospital	1207
Willingdon Hospital	679
Irwin Hospital	1103
G.B. Pant Hospital	258
Mental Hospital, Shahdara.	160

There has been no increase in the bed strength of the above hospitals during the past two years. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is not included as it is an autonomous body.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SEPARATION OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICES

***471. DR. SALIG RAM :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation recently for the separation of the Excise and Customs Services ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) The Government have not received any representation either from Service Associations of Class I Officers or from individual officers belonging to the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service Class I suggesting separation of the Customs and Excise Services. However, communications to that effect have been received by the Government from other quarters.

(b) The decision to integrate the Indian Customs Service and the Central Excise Service Class I into a single service was taken by the Government in 1959 after mature consideration. The considerations which weighed with the Government then, are equally valid now.

LAPSED POLICIES OF THE L.I.C.

***472. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what time is usually taken by the L.I.C. in revising its lapsed policies ;

(b) what happens when a proponent dies during those revival operations and whether his heirs or nominees get any benefit ; and

(c) whether there is any rule to the effect that a policy holder whose policy lapses cannot get any new policy in his favour within three years of such lapsation without reviving his earlier one ?