

on the 21st May, 1964. The first agreement was with the International Standard Electric Corporation (which is a subsidiary of the ITT Group) of New York, for the licensing of manufacture of Pentaconta type of crossbar switching equipment in India and for the grant of loan of one million U.S. dollars to the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., and investment of 1.25 million U.S. dollars in the equity capital of the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., for financing the Crossbar Project. The second agreement was with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company of Antwerp, Belgium (which is a subsidiary of the International Standard Electric Corporation of the ITT Group), for the supply of know-how and equipment for the manufacture of crossbar exchange equipment in India. Both the agreements were initially valid for a period of 7 years, from 21-5-1964. In order to enable ITI to reach the capacity envisaged in the agreement and to remove the difficulties faced by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the working of crossbar exchanges, the agreements were extended twice by periods of one year each beyond 20th May, 1971. During the extended period, no royalty was to be paid by ITI to the ISEC. The loan given by ISEC is to be repaid by ITI. The question of purchase by the Government of the equity shares held by ISEC in ITI is under consideration.

Indo-U.S. relations

985 SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether relations between India and U.S.A. are improving; and

(b) whether U.S.A. is keen to improve the relations and as a gesture thereof has agreed to supply more Uranium to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) It is the Government of India's policy

to have mature and constructive relations with the United States of America. These relations have shown some improvement in recent years.

(b) Under the 1963 Agreement on Atomic Energy Co-operation for Civil Uses, the US is committed to supply fuel for the Tarapur atomic power station for the efficient and continuous operation of the station. The first shipment of fuel for the current year, which had been delayed because of objections by certain groups in the USA, was released in July, 1976. The export licence for the second shipment is still under consideration of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which has not yet taken any decision in the matter.

Geological Survey of U.P.

986 SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are at present conducting a geological survey in U.P. to find out mineral deposits particularly in hill areas; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India is currently conducting investigation of mineral deposits in Almora, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and other areas including Banda, Jhansi and Muzapur districts. It is premature to indicate any findings at present. A statement of the mineral deposits so far investigated by Geological Survey of India in these areas in U.P. is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11144/76.]

Restructuring of H.S.L.

987. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the progress achieved