

(c) There are eight dealerships of SKO/LDO for which selections have yet to be finalised.

• Modernisation of Telecommunication System

2154. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the projects for modernisation of telecommunication system in the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to modernise the telecommunication system through:

—induction of latest technology digital electronic switching systems as also digital microwave and fibre optic systems both in the local and long distance networks, an intensive exploitation of satellite facilities;

—induction of store and forward telegraph systems for eliminating excessive transit delays in telegraph working, a modern packet switched network for improved data communication as also provision of several new non-voice services such as videotex teletex etc.; and

—computerisation of auto-manual services in several multi exchange areas. The extent of induction of these programmes will depend upon the availability of adequate funds for the telecommunication services during the 7th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Efforts to bring talented Jurists as judges

2155. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether intelligent and talented jurists and advocates do not come

forward to take appointments in the High Courts due to which the posts of judges are lying vacant in various High Courts and Government have been facing difficulty in filling them; and

(b) what efforts are being made by Government to attract talented jurists and advocates to accept appointment as High Court Judges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). Appointments of Judges of the High Courts are made by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice and the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of India. The process of consultation does take time. Careful consideration is given to the views expressed by the different constitutional authorities. Government makes every possible effect to fill the vacancies as expeditiously as possible and to select the best available talent among the eligible persons.

The question of appointing talented Advocates remains constantly in Government's mind. However the question of making the office a Judge more attractive in terms of service conditions if proposed to be considered in the forthcoming Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of the States.

[English]

Use of Natural Gas

2156. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN :

RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have received the proposal on suggestion from the "Voice of India" President regarding use of "Natural Gas" as the substitute for limestone and coke in the process of manufacturing sugar;

(b) whether USSR has developed this technology;