

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A Technical Team was appointed to have on-the-spot inspections of plant and machinery of thirteen companies of which three were FERA Companies. The reports of the Technical Team have been examined by the Government. In the light of the overall Industrial Policy of the Government, it has been decided to re-endorse/recognise the capacities in accordance with the various schemes announced by the Government from time to time.

**Setting up of Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Districts of Andhra Pradesh**

4644. SHRI G. SAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges at Martur, Bapatla and Chirala of Prakasham District in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) the probable date by which the same will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Supply of defective Bucket wheel Excavators by M.A.N., West Germany to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited**

4645. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2231 on 3rd December, 1985 regarding supply of defective Bucket wheel Excavators by M.A.N. West Germany to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and state :

(a) The total cost and expenditure incurred by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for procurement of the said two Bucket wheel Excavators including

the amount of foreign exchange paid to the supplier ;

(b) whether the examination of the enquiry report has been completed ;

(c) if so, the details of the said report and results of its examination ; and

(d) what further action is being contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The total expenditure incurred on the procurement of the two bucket wheel excavators was Rs. 21.38 crores. This included foreign exchange payment equivalent to Rs. 9.16 crores.

(b) to (d). Independent enquiries into the accident that occurred in October, 1984 to one of the bucket wheel excavators were held by the Directorate General Mines Safety, a West German Expert and by a committee of officers of NLC. All these enquiry reports had brought out that the cause of the accident was human failure in that adequate precautions were not taken before removing the welds on one of the thrust plates in the excavator. The DGMS has launched prosecution against 5 officials of the NLC under the Mines Act, 1952. As to whether there have been any design deficiencies in the equipment, it appears that there was no deficiency in the structural design. To doubly ensure design soundness in future purchases of such equipment an additional safeguard will be provided in the contracts for vetting of the design as well as inspection by an expert agency.

**Production target of coal**

4646. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total coal bearing areas in the country according to the latest survey ;

(b) the target set for production of coal by the end of the Seventh Plan ; and

(c) the details thereof ?