

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that Engineering Goods Industries in India cannot compete in the international market as the price of raw materials like steel in India is just the double of what it is in other countries;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to help Indian Engineering Industries;

(c) whether there is any complaint that Engineering Goods Industries are not getting a regular supply of pig iron; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Indigenous steel prices are reportedly higher than the prices prevailing in the international market. Steps taken to maintain competitiveness of the engineering exports include, amongst others, facility of advance licence and operation of International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) to enable availability of steel to registered exporters at international prices.

(c) and (d). Supply of pig iron from indigenous sources is reported to be inadequate. Steps taken to supplement the indigenous availability include canalisation of import of pig iron through Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) and reduction in customs duty on import of pig iron.

[*Translation*]

**Telephone Connections to Persons  
Who Do Not Need it**

4329. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have provided telephone connections to those persons also who do not need it and they are earning money illegally by setting telephones to the needy persons;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter with a view to withdrawing this facility from them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of such telephone connections.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

**Telephone Service in Barauni-Begusarai,  
Bihar**

4330. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone services in Barauni-Begusarai which is a big industrial centre of the country are totally insufficient whereas it should have a direct link with Patna the capital of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new building of the telephone exchange was constructed two-three years ago and the project estimate therefor was also approved three years back; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which this scheme could not be implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. Both Barauni and Begusarai trunk manual exchanges have direct trunk circuits to Patna. Between Barauni and Begusarai two trunk circuits are working. The effective percentage of trunk calls at Barauni and Begusarai is of the order of 83 and 70% respectively. Regarding local telephone services, Barauni is a manual exchange of 200 lines capacity with 119 working connections and none on the waiting list. Similarly Begusarai is also a manual exchange of 600 lines capacity with 580 working connections and 40 on the waiting list.

(b) Yes, Sir. The work of construction of the new Telecom. Building at Begusarai was completed in April, 1984.

(c) The reasons for not implementing this scheme are as under :

- (i) The automatic equipment for 500 lines to replace the existing manual exchange at Begusarai, allotted against 1983-84 supply programme has not been received so far. The supplies are expected in 1986-87.
- (ii) A further allotment for expansion from 500 to 700 lines has been allotted from the 1985-86 supply programme, so that all the working lines can be transferred to the Automatic Exchange.
- (iii) For the 20 lines Cabinet Type Telex exchange, which is also being installed at Begusarai, only three subscribers have paid the Demand notes so far.
- (iv) The Telex exchange is to be connected to Calcutta for which a VFT system is to be installed. But the existing 8-channel carrier system on which the VFT circuits are to work between Begusarai-Patna is not stable and hence the VFT system could not be commissioned. To work it on the stable media, there is a proposal to drop channels from Patna Katihar Microwave system and to extend them to Begusarai. This is Planned for completion by March, 1986.
- (v) There is no plan to immediately replace the manual exchange at Barauni as there is sufficient capacity available to provide new telephone connections.

[English]

#### Census of Small Scale Industries

4332. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any action has been taken by Government to undertake a census of small scale industries to enable proper planning for this sector in pursuance of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in its 14th Report; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Construction of Nathpa Jhakri Project

4333. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3449, dated 13 December, 1983 regarding Nathpa Jhakri Project and state :

(a) the share of Rajasthan in Nathpa Jhakri Power Project;

(b) the progress made in the construction of above project;

(c) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh are putting obstacles in giving Rajasthan its share of power; and

(d) if so, the co-operation proposed to be given by the Union Government to Rajasthan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). Investment decision for construction of Nathpa Jhakri Hydro-electric Project in Himachal Pradesh has not been taken so far. Allocation of power can be decided only when the investment decision is made.

#### Oil Struck in Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra and Assam Etc.

4334. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and gas has been struck and found in various parts of Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra, Assam and some other parts of the country during 1.1.1984 to 18.11.1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of quality and quantum of such oil and gas;