

persons were affected due to leakage of hydrochloric acid at IPCL's plant. 12 persons were discharged after first-aid and 2 persons were kept in hospital for observation and were discharged after two days.

(b) Yes, Sir. The leakage was due to some technical problems.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Following steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such events in future :

1. The fire water control valve for vent scrubber has been provided with a remote switch in Control Room.
2. The power supply system for vent scrubber circulation pumps has been modified.
3. An alarm has been provided in the Control Room for indicating failure of vent scrubber circulation.
4. Additional safety equipments have been provided.

Collaboration to Share Know-How with Qatar

1490. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has agreed to share its know-how with Qatar in the development of their north field gas resources;

(b) whether the terms and conditions of the collaboration have been finalised;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits that will accrue to India by this collaboration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

There is no such agreement between India and Qatar.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Setting up of Telecommunication Network to Link up Delhi and Bombay with Frankfurt

1491. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West German Government have offered to set up a telecommunication network to link Delhi, Bombay with Frankfurt in Germany; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such an offer and the advantages of such a linkage of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir. The West German Government have, however, showed an interest in extending some additional telecommunication services *viz.* TELEFAX etc., to India.

(b) Does not arise.

Offer by West Germany for setting up Second Electronic Switching System Factory

1492. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West German Government have given a proposal for establishing the second Electronic Switching System Factory for digital electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such an offer; and

(c) whether a comparative study has been made of the German technology vis-a-vis existing technology taken from France for setting up an Electronic Switching System factory by Indian Telephone Industries at Gonda, in Uttar Pradesh ?

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