

(b) Information is being collected from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). The State Government has changed the nodal agency for implementation of biogas programme from Madhya Pradesh Khdai and Village Industries Board to Madhya Pradesh State Agro-Industries Development Corporation Ltd.

[English]

Development of fuel efficient vehicles

2579. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for promotion of rapid development of fuel-efficient vehicles is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Recognising the need for technological upgradation and consequent savings in fuel, Government have, during recent years, permitted automobile manufacturers to enter into foreign collaborations. The future strategy, which would give a boost to indigenous development and at the same time would not insulate us from technological innovations abroad, is under formulation.

Radio relay system in Orissa

2580. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Radio Relay System has been introduced in different States;

(b) if so, which areas of Orissa have been covered under such programme; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRKHA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Following towns in Orissa have been provided with Radio Relay Systems :—

Cuttack, Behrampur, Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Paradeep and Nauapali.

(c) Following radio relay systems are working with above Towns :—

1. Kharagpur - Cuttack - Behrampur-Vizag- Vijayawada - Nellore-Madras Microwave system.
2. Calcutta - Kharagpur - Sambalpur Nagpur Microwave system.
3. Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Microwave system.
4. Sambalpur-Raigarh Microwave system.
5. Sambalpur-Rourkela Microwave system.

UHF Systems :

1. Cuttack-Paradeep UHF system.
2. Cuttack-Nauapali UHF system.

Price of Soda Ash

2581. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the manufacturers of soda ash are making abnormal profits;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken so far to check this trend;

(c) whether Government have asked BICP to go into the cost structure of soda ash and suggest measures to peg the price at a particular level; and

(d) if so, the measures suggested by the BICP and steps taken to decrease the price of soda ash ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :