

(14) Gorakhpur-Kashinagar-Kasia

(15) *Main Route* : Bhatinda, Abohar-Sriganganagar

Branching Routes :

(a) Abohar-Fazilka

(b) Abohar-Hanumangarh

Energy by destruction of bio-mass

2599. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a considerable need of energy in the country is met by destruction of bio-mass; and

(b) steps taken to replace consumption of bio-mass by other forms of energy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of programmes have been initiated to conserve biomass and check deforestation through popularization of biogas, improved chulhas, and solar cookers. Efforts have also been initiated to increase fuelwood supply through Energy Plantation Programmes.

Irregularities in implementing biogas scheme in Bihar

2600. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some irregularities have been reported from Patna, Nalanda, Santhal Pargana and Bhagalpur districts in implementing the biogas scheme of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under took a survey of biogas plants set up from 1.4.1974 to 31.3.1982 through its Directorate of Economic Research. The survey, inter-alia, covered 3938 biogas plants in the districts of Patna, Nalanda, Bhagalpur and Santhal Pargana (Deoghar, Dooomka,

Godda and Sahibganj). Discrepancies have been found in the number of plants which were reported as completed in KVIC's record. KVIC contemplate a re-survey of 605 plants which were classified as non-traceable in the report of the census study; out of this a resurvey of 73 plants has been completed so far.

International subscriber dialling system in Calicut

2601. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the required facilities are available at Calicut for International subscriber dialling; and

(b) if not, what are the proposals to bring the Calicut Section under the International subscriber dialling system without any further delay ?

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

(b) Installation work for introduction of International Subscriber Dialling system at Calicut is already in progress and International Subscriber Dialling is likely to be provided by March, 1987.

Industrial licences to large Industrial houses

2602 SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a large number of applications for industrial licences from the first six large industrial houses during 1986;

(b) the number of licences issued to each of these industrial houses during 1985-86; and

(c) the number and details of their applications pending with Government for finalisation ?

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

(a) During the year 1986 (upto 30.7.1986) 77 Industrial Licence applications were received under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, for the grant of Letters of Intent from the first six large industrial houses.

(b) During the period 1985-86, the following number of industrial licences were issued to each of the houses :

<i>Name of the Group</i>	<i>Number of Licences issued</i>
Birla	8
Tata	2
J. K. Singhanian	4
Mafatlal	3
Thapar	4
Reliance Industries	3

(c) Of the 77 proposals, 64 were at various stages of consideration. The details of pending industrial licence applications are not divulged till the Government have taken final decisions thereon.

Indigenisation of New Model of Maruti

2603. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :
SHRI N VENKATARATNAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the switch-over to the new model of Maruti would affect the process of its indigenisation; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to speed up the indigenisation process ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) and (b) Switch-over to the new model is expected to result in a slight drop in the indigenisation level of the car during 1986-87. The company expects to make good this drop next year.

Solar Power with new cell designs

2604. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether research is being conducted in India to design cells and other devices which convert sunlight directly to electricity on similar basis as announced by researchers at Stanford University in California;

(b) the achievements made so far to utilise solar energy in India; and

(c) whether some advanced countries have been approached for technical know-how in the field of solar energy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yer, Sir.

(b) As a result of efforts made in India, solar photovoltaic cells and modules as well as systems for various applications are being manufactured in the country. Systems such as solar powered streetlights, community lighting systems, community television units, water pumping systems, small powered systems for rural electrification, etc. are being installed in various parts of the country. Over 250 villages have been provided with streetlights and other community facilities. The solar photovoltaic systems are also being used by organisations such as B.S.F., Railways, Defence Services and O.N.G.C. for specialised applications. Solar thermal systems such as water heating systems, solar driers, solar timber kilns, desalination units, etc. are also being deployed under a country-wide programme of the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(c) No, Sir. However, some Indian Companies have entered into cooperation with foreign companies in the field of solar