

International S.T.D. Service from Baroda

3911. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Baroda in Gujarat is likely to be connected to U.S.A. and UK by S.T.D. Service ; and

(b) if so, the date from which S.T.D. to these countries will start functioning ?

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

(b) The work has already commenced and STD service to foreign countries (including U.K. and USA) is likely to start functioning by March, 1987.

Shortage of Soda Ash

3912. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of indigenous soda ash ;

(b) if so, the gap between the indigenous production and the demand ;

(c) whether there is a hike in prices of indigenous soda ash ;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to maintain a check on prices of indigenous soda ash ; and

(e) the annual imports of soda ash ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For 1986-87, the gap between the indigenous production and demand has been estimated at about 1,40,000 MTs.

(c) and (d). In the current year some manufacturers have marginally increased ex-factory prices claiming rise in cost of some inputs. However, the retail prices in the country have declined due to imports of soda ash resulting in adequate availability.

(e) To the extent information is available, the quantity of soda ash registered for imports with the DGTD against contracts during 1984-85 and 1985-86 is as follows :

1984-85	—	72,390 MT.
1985-86	—	2,01,501 MT.

Foreign Collaboration policy for Footwear Industry

3913. SHRI ANAND SINGH :

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE :

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign collaboration proposals given by Indian Companies during the last one year ;

(b) whether these proposals were rejected ;

(c) if so, on what grounds ; and

(d) whether Government have laid down any policy regarding foreign collaboration in footwear industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Eight proposals for foreign collaboration for the manufacture of footwear and components had been received during 1985 and 1986.

(b) and (c). Two of these proposals were rejected on the following grounds :—

(i) the details of the know-how of technology and the status of the collaborators had not been indicated ;

(ii) the terms involved were on the high side having regard to the item of manufacture.

(d) According to the prevailing policy, foreign collaboration in leather footwear industry, both financial and technical, is permissible subject to the condition that non-resident equity does not exceed 40% of the paid-up and subscribed capital of the Indian Company.

[Translations]

Setting up of Power Houses in Bihar

3914. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up several large-scale power houses in Bihar during 1986-87 and 1987-88 ;

(b) if so, the names of the places where power houses will be set up during this period and the capacity of each power house and the population likely to be covered by them ;

(c) whether assistance would be taken from the World Bank or any other foreign countries for this purpose ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) No, Sir. However, two units each of 210 MW capacity are under execution in Bihar at Bokaro 'B' Thermal Power Station by Damodar Valley Corporation and these are expected to be commissioned in 1987-88.

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

[English]

Indigenous production of Optical fibre

3915. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given clearance to indigenous production of optical fibre cables ;

(b) whether the company to manufacture optical fibre cables is in public sector or private sector ;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration has been approved for technology transfer in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is in public sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Project to Produce Energy from Tide in Sea

3916. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up a project near Athar Banki near Paradeep Port in Orissa to produce energy from tide in the sea ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether this is the first one of its kind in the country ;

(d) if not, other types of works taken up earlier and the result thereof ;

(e) the financial aspects of the project at Athar Banki in Orissa, the expected production of energy and the time by when the work is likely to be completed ;

(f) whether the production of energy from this project will be less costlier than that of others ;

(g) if so, the details thereof ;