

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c) Government of India cooperate with certain foreign countries in the areas of hydrocarbon industry. Government of India and the Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam have agreed, in principle, to cooperate for exploration of hydrocarbons in Vietnam.

Rate of electricity in cities and villages

2165. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate for supply of electricity in cities is 55 paise per unit whereas it is 16 paise per unit in villages; and

(b) if so, the reasons for supplying electricity in villages at such a low rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b) The tariffs for various categories of consumers are fixed by the respective State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments and differ from State to State and from category to category.

Writing off of losses incurred by Public Sector Undertaking

2166. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses incurred by public sector undertakings under the Department of Public Enterprises have been written off;

(b) if not, the time by which these will be written off; and

(c) the names of the public undertakings whose losses have been written off and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (c) Decision to write off the losses incurred by Triveni Structural Ltd., Richardson & Cruddas Ltd., Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., Braithwaite, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation and Jessops has been taken primarily with a view to providing a reasonable capital base to the companies on a prospective basis.

Proposals to write off losses of loss-making companies are processed on the merits of each case.

[English]

Hotlines for rapid communication between New Delhi and Capitals of foreign countries

2167. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to design hotlines with a view to providing rapid communication between New Delhi and important Capitals of foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of ring power generation around Capital

2168. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to