

tonnes), 1984-85 (61.44 lakh tonnes), and 1985-86 (70.03 lakh tonnes) seasons.

Export of Pesticides

8210. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:
SHRI SRIHARI RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Pesticides Association of India of which Hindustan Insecticides Limited, a public sector unit, is a member is advocating export of pesticides;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allow export of pesticides; and

(c) the policy of Government regarding issue of new licences for manufacture of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Exports are encouraged as the country has an overall surplus of manufacturing capacity.

(c) Pesticides Industry is included in Appendix-I of the Industrial Policy Statement, 1973(as amended). All companies are eligible for grant of industrial licences. New licences for pesticide formulations are, however, not issued, except to Government, State Sector or Cooperative undertakings, unless linked to manufacture of technical grade pesticides.

[*Translation*]

Glass Industry in Firozabad, U.P.

8211. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH:
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the glass industry in Firozabad is facing a crisis at present;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). There have been, however, some complaints about the poor quality of coal supplied to Firozabad units. Due to inadequate availability of steam coal from Raniganj and South Karanpura Coalfields, the requirements are being met with better grade coal from other coalfields. To ensure proper sizing and removal of extraneous material, a crash programme for constructing coal handling plants has been undertaken by the Coal India Ltd. The Coal companies have also been directed to ensure manual breaking of bigger pieces and picking up of extraneous material. Quality Control cells have been established in each coal company.

[*English*]

High Power Committee on Digital Switching System

8213. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed a High Power Committee to formulate digital switching system;

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference; and

(c) by what time its report is likely to be submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) A High Power Committee has been constituted to draw up a plan regarding manufacturing capacities needed for digital