

(a) the countries that are manufacturing reflective acrylic products used as accessories in harnessing solar energy ;

(b) whether Government have initiated steps to encourage manufacture of reflective acrylic products in India ; and

(c) if so, the policy and steps taken by Government regarding the manufacture of reflective acrylic in India ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE)** : (a) to (c) Reflective acrylic products are being used in a limited way as accessories in harnessing solar energy in some countries though more developmental work and field studies are necessary before their widespread use. Research and development work in this area has been initiated in India and if found suitable manufacture of the same would be encouraged.

#### S. T. D. Facility in Tripura

3570. **SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the names of towns/cities in Tripura which are already connected with STD facility and those likely to be linked with STD facility during 1987-88 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)** : Agartala in Tripura is already provided with STD facility. Kailashabar and R. K. Pur are likely to be linked with STD during 1987-88.

#### Postal Structure of Goa State

3571. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal structure of the newly created State of Goa is proposed to be elevated ;

(b) if so, the present set-up ;

(c) to what status the postal department in Goa is going to be upgraded ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)** : (a) to (d) Presently, the Goa Postal Division is under the Administrative control of the PMG, Maharashtra circle and is being headed by a Sr. Supdt. of Post Offices in the Sr. Time Scale of IPS Group 'A'. Consequent upon the formation of a new State of Goa, requests have been received to upgrade the status of Postal setup in the State of Goa. The matter is still under consideration.

#### Hiring of Machines by Eastern Coalfields Ltd

3572. **SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK** : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Ltd. had hired nine machines during 1977-78 to 1985-86 ;

(a) if so, from whom and on what terms and conditions ;

(c) the purposes for hiring and the cost benefit ratio ;

(d) whether the hiring was according to the rules ; and

(e) whether it was approved by the Board of Directors of ECL and Coal India Ltd. ?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE)** : (a) and (b) Twenty one sets of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery with supporting equipment were hired by Eastern Coalfields Limited during the period 1977-78 to 1985-86 from the following :

1. M/s. G. S. Atwal & Company (Gua).
2. M/s. Mercantile Construction Company.
3. M/s. Sterling Construction Company.