

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The UHF Radio system between Karimganj-Silchar is working since November, 1985. The UHF system has ample capacity to meet the requirements of traffic between Karimganj and Silchar. Therefore, there is no plan at present to replace the UHF system by a narrow band microwave system.

(c) No, Sir.

Closure of Ashok Paper Mills

3648. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Ashok Paper Mill in Assam has been closed since 1983 ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to restart the mills ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Financial Institutions, in consultation with the Central Government and the State Government, are engaged in working out modalities for re-opening of the mill. Feasibility report for revival and rehabilitation of the Jogighopa unit of the mill located in Assam has been requisitioned by the State Government through a Consultant appointed for this purpose. A report has also been commissioned by the Financial Institutions on the question of division of assets and liabilities of the Jogighopa and Rameshwarnagar units of the mill located in Assam and Bihar respectively. Further action of the revival and rehabilitation of Ashok Paper Mill would be possible after the views of the State Government on the various aspects connected therewith become available.

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of Fuel Saving Devices

3649. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Univalve Distributors Corporation, Canada, have submitted a proposal to Government to manufacture the fuel saving devices in the country for their installation in the cars ;

(b) if so, whether this Canadian firm had contacted the Petroleum Conservation Research Association, Delhi to obtain test certificates ;

(c) if so, whether this device has been found suitable on test ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to grant permission to this firm for the production of this device in the country ?

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

(a) and (b) No application has been received from any Indian party of grant of a licence for the manufacture of fuel saving devices for cars in collaboration with M/S, Univalve Distributors Corpn., Canada. However, M/s ESJAY Associates of Madras on behalf of M/s, Univalve Distributors Corpn., of Canada have approached Petroleum Conservation Research Association to evaluate "UNICURVE VALVES" with a view to establish its feasibility in Indian conditions.

(c) The Petroleum Conservation Research Association is examining the claims of the foreign party and no test and evaluation results are yet available.

(d) It is premature to indicate any firm view of the Govt. in the matter.

[*English*]

Manufacture of Small Tractors

3650. KUMARI D.K. THARA DEVI: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state :

(a) where there is any proposal to manufacture small tractors which would be viable for small farmers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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