

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 Corp., Canada. However, M/s ESJAY Associates of Madras on behalf of M/s, Univalve Distributors Corp., 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) :

(a) and (b) At present most of the leading manufacturers of tractors viz. HMT, Eicher Tractors Ltd., Punjab Tractors Limited, Escorts Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., VST Tillers Tractors Limited are manufacturing small tractors which are viable for small farmers. As per the present policy of the Government the existing manufacturers can produce any range of tractors within their licenced capacity.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Additional Quality of Coal to Power Houses of Madhya Pradesh

3651. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the three major power houses of Madhya Pradesh have been set up near coal mines :

(b) whether coal supply in two major power houses, Satpura Thermal Power House, Sarni and Korba West Coast Power House, Korba is unsatisfactory although three power houses have been located at pit-heads of these coal mines ;

(c) whether due to lesser supply and inferior quality of coal, the installed capacity is not being fully utilised ;

(d) whether Union Government propose to make immediate arrangements to supply additional quantity of coal to Satpura and Korba West Power Stations so that these power stations are able to generate requisite quantity of power and supply adequate electricity to the Industry and agriculture ; and

(e) whether Government propose to supply additional quantity of coal to major power houses of the State as per their requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No loss of generation has been reported from the Satpura thermal station (also called the Sarni thermal

(station) and the Korba West Thermal station due to shortage of coal. On 25.11.1987 the coal stocks at the Satpura and Korba-West thermal stations were 39,931 and 13,957 tonnes respectively, Satpura station is designed for 'E' & 'G' grades of coal and is getting E & F grades of coal while the Korba-West station is designed for F & G grades of coal and supplies are of G grade coal.

(d) and (e) The coal supply position is being monitored closely and supply of coal to the Satpura and West Korba stations is being augmented by the Western Coal Fields Ltd. and South-Eastern Coal Field Ltd. The M.P. Electricity Board has also been advised to improve their off-take of coal for these stations.

[*English*]

Allocation of Foodgrains, Edible Oil and Sugar to Gujarat

3652. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the quota of foodgrains to drought prone States for distribution in relief camps; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the different varieties of foodgrains, edible oil and sugar allotted to Gujarat for distribution in relief camps and for public distribution system during 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Allocations of wheat and rice at reasonable levels have been made to the various States under public distribution system as well as for drought/calamity relief.

(b) Allocations for the year 1988 have not become due.

Installation of Telecommunication Equipment by India in Foreign Countries

3653. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :