

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Manufacture of Ranging Drum Shearers (AB-16)	M/s. Amderson, Strathclyde PLC. U.K.	Pound 0.21	0.25	16.49	—	10.94
6.	Supply of knowhow for Road Headers Dint Headers.	M/s. DOSCO Overseas Enggg. Ltd. U.K.	Pound 7.01	2.01	13.31	5.93	—

**Closure of Mahabir Opencast Project Under E.C.L.**

10364. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahabir Opencast Project under the Eastern Coalfields Limited was closed in the year 1979;

(b) if so, whether the machinery purchased for this project at a substantial cost could be utilised in other projects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent of loss suffered by the company due to failure of this project; and

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed and if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Mahabir Opencast Project started in 1975-76, had to be closed in 1979-80 after incurring total capital expen-

diture of Rs. 18.28 crores due to very adverse geo-mining conditions. Loss due to the closure of this project has been negligible. Out of a total investment of Rs. 18.28 crores, plant-machinery, furniture, vehicles etc. of Mahabir Opencast Project amounting to Rs. 18.21 crores have been utilised for other projects. Only Rs.67,000/- spent on mine development and land acquisition has gone un-utilised partially as about 5 lakh tonnes of coal was extracted before the closure of the project.

No individual has been found to be responsible for the losses due to the closure of the project as per the investigation report.

**Low power TV transmitters at Osmanabad**

10365. SHRI ARVIND TULSHI KAMBLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of low power transmitters to be installed in Maharashtra in near future;

(b) whether Government propose to install a low power transmitter at Osmanabad also; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) :** (a) and (b) Three low power (100 W) TV transmitters (including one at Osmanabad) and two TV transposers are envisaged to be set up in Maharashtra during the remainder part of the Seventh Plan period.

(c) TV service was originally envisaged to be provided to Osmanabad (as also to a number of other places in the country) by shifting an existing transmitter on its replacement by a high power TV transmitter under the Seventh Plan. Under this arrangement, it would have been possible to install the transmitter at Osmanabad and at other such locations only towards the end of the Seventh Plan period. However, taking note of the need for extending TV service to Osmanabad and other such locations earlier than could have been possible under the aforesaid arrangement, a new scheme has been recently included, in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan for purchase of additional transmitters for installation at these places. Orders for the required equipment have been placed on the manufacturers and site for the proposed TV transmitter at Osmanabad has been taken over.

[Translation]

#### Opening of Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

10366. **SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened in Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the norms laid down for opening the post offices;

(c) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in each district of Uttar Pradesh during the remaining period of current Five Year Plan; and

(d) the names of places in Faizabad and Barabanki districts of Uttar Pradesh where post offices have been opened during the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and upto March, 1988?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS :** (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) 334.

(b) The information is furnished in the statement given below.

(c) The district-wise targets have not yet been finalised.

(d) During the period 1-4-1985 to 31-3-1988 five new post offices were opened in Faizabad district and 17 in Barabanki district. The names of these post offices are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*Liberalised guidelines for opening of Post Offices in rural areas introduced with effect from 19-11-1987.*

1. Having regard to the Seventh Plan target of 6,000 new post offices in the rural sector, bulk of which has to be achieved during the remaining two Annual Plans 1988-89 and 1989-90, the Postal Services Board have decided that proposals for opening of branch post offices in rural areas will henceforth be regulated according to the following guidelines.

(i) A group of villages constituting a single gram panchayat will be eligible for a post office provided that (a) the aggregate population group of villages is not less than 3000 in normal rural areas and 1500 in Hilly, backward and tribal areas and (b) there is no other post office within the group.

(ii) The post office will normally be opened at the headquarter village of the gram panchayat. If such a village falls within 3 kms. of an existing post office, the post office