

difficult to allow the competing units to visit their plants in view of certain secrecy clauses in their foreign collaboration agreements. The Technical Committee will take a view on this matter at the appropriate time.

Titagarh Paper Mills, West Bengal

834. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Titagarh Paper Mills in West Bengal is closed for sometime; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to revive the mill?

• THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M.ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). M/s. Titagarh Paper Mills has three units, two in West Bengal and the third in Orissa. The two units located in West Bengal are lying closed. The Titagarh Paper Mills is a sick industrial company in terms of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. As required under the provisions of the Act, the Mill had made a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in June, 1987. The BIFR has appointed the Industrial Development Bank of India as the operating agency for formulating a scheme for the revival of the mill.

Foreign Collaboration of Non-priority Items

835. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding foreign collaboration for non-priority items; and

(b) whether export commitment

changes a non priority item into a priority item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M.ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Government has laid down the Foreign Collaboration guidelines which are based on national priorities. Import of technical know-how is permitted in sophisticated and high priority areas, in export oriented or import substitution manufacturing or for enabling indigenous industry to update existing technology in India to meet efficiently domestic requirement and/ or to become competitive in the export market.

[*Translation*]

Handing Over of Scooters India Ltd. to a Private Company

836. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for handing over the Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow to a private company; and

(b) the acreage of land with Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow and the price of the land, the value of machines installed there and the price at which it has been sold?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J.VENGAL RAO): (a) As Scooters India Ltd. has been incurring losses since inception, the Govt. have decided to transfer the agreed assets and equivalent liabilities of the Scooters India Limited's Lucknow unit for the manufacture of two-wheelers and three-wheelers to a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in the private sector, so that the capacity created and the skills developed in the unit are not wasted.

(b) The assets of Scooters India Ltd. have not been transferred or sold so far. Scooters India Ltd. holds 147.499 acre of land on lease basis. As per terms of offer, the agreed assets for transfer will be valued by mutually appointed assessors with the condition that the aggregate assessed value will not be less than the aggregate depreciated book value of the assets.

[*English*]

Power From Nepal

837. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to buy power from Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the price agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). India has indicated its willingness to consider purchase of surplus power at reasonable price from Karnali Multipurpose Project proposed in Nepal. Nepal had also offered to supply surplus power from a medium size project, they propose to set up. The price of power has not been discussed with Nepal.

[*Translation*]

Highest charges Paid for A T.V. Serial

838. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of T.V. serial among the serials being telecast presently which has been booked at highest transmission charges and income earned so far from its

telecast; and

(b) the time of telecast, duration, title and main terms of contract of this T.V. serial?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). All the sponsored serials produced by outsiders telecast at 9.00 P.M. slot presently and the serial 'Ramayana' telecast at 9.30 A.M. on Sundays are charged at the highest rate of Super 'A' time classification. However, the serial 'Ramayana' has earned highest gross revenue for Doordarshan from sponsorship fee and associated spot advertisement charges, which came to Rs. 23.73 crores upto the end of June '88. The other particulars of this serial are given below:

(1) time of telecast.... 9.30 A.M. on Sunday

(2) Duration of time slot.... 45 minutes per episode

(3) Main terms of contract:

(i) Sponsorship fee of Rs. 2.25 lakhs per episode

(ii) Free commercial time of 90 seconds and two credit lines of 10 seconds each per episode

(iii) Number of sponsors...two

[*English*]

"Panchayat Dak Sewaks"/Scheme

839. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme known as