

(a) whether French industries have evinced keen interest in investing in the gas sector;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c). Some French Companies have shown interest in taking up work in various projects relating to natural gas. Based on techno-economic evaluation of the offers, a few of them have been awarded contracts for consultancy, supply of equipment and construction activities in various projects relating to natural gas.

[*Translation*]

#### **Use of Cable Television In Metropolitan Cities**

4555. SHRI S. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Catvision (cable television) is rapidly catching on in metropolitan cities;

(b) the estimated number of private companies engaged in it;

(c) the extent of income earned by Government every year from these companies and the basis thereof;

(d) whether prior permission of Government is required in this regard and if not, the reason thereof; and

(e) whether these companies are trying to import European T.V. culture by installing disc antennae?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### **Projects undertaken by Gas Authority of India Limited**

4556. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to transfer more gas producing facilities from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL);

(b) if not, how the Gas Authority of India Ltd. will survive beyond the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur pipeline project;

(c) the future plan of the Gas Authority of India Ltd. and whether it propose to diversify; and

(d) if so, its broad features, the capital outlay involved and how the Gas Authority of India Ltd propose to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d). It is proposed to vest responsibility of processing, marketing and transportation of natural gas to Gas Authority of India Ltd. in phases. GAIL are already implementing the HBJ gas pipeline project and are supplying gas to various consumers along the pipeline. Gas Authority of India Limited has proposed to take up new schemes. It is at present constructing an LPG extraction plant at Bijaipur, Madhya Pradesh at an approximate cost of Rs. 297 crores. This will be financed largely from GAIL's internal re-