

those foreign proposals which offer 100 per cent financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). Proposals have been received from countries/overseas Companies for supply of power equipment for power projects. In some cases possibilities of Government credit, suppliers credit and commercial loans for financing the project have also been indicated. No final decisions has been taken by Government on these proposals.

#### Exemption of Punjab from M.R.T.P. Act

5934. SHRI L. S. TUR: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider exemption of Punjab from the application of MRTP Act as has been done for J & K in the light of similarity of conditions in the two neighbouring areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): Section 1(2) of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969, specifically provides that the said Act does not extend to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Non-applicability of the provisions of this Act to the State of Jammu & Kashmir is thus by virtue of the Constitutional constraints. No exemption as such has ever been given nor is available to any other State of India in regard to the applicability of the M.R. T.P. Act. The question of exempting the State of Punjab from the applicability of the said Act, as suggested in the question, therefore, does not arise.

#### Setting up Unit of Indian Drug and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., in Punjab.

5935. SHRI L. S. TUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government propose considering to locate some of the public sector units of the Indian Drugs

and Pharmaceuticals Limited in Punjab which is ideally suited for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): There is no proposal at present to locate any new unit of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited in Punjab. The company has already set up a Joint Venture unit in collaboration with the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation Limited at Sengrur in Punjab for the manufacture of Starch, Dextrose, liquid Glucose, etc.

#### Telecommunication Needs in the Eighties

5936. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a plan to meet the telecommunication needs of the country in the Eighties;

(b) whether efforts have also been made to expand the communications system in the rural areas of the country so as to meet the needs of such areas;

(c) by what time STD system linking all towns with a population of 25,000 and above may be envisaged; and

(d) the details in regard to parts (a), (b) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) S.T.D. facilities are not Planned on the basis of population. However STD facilities are likely to be extended progressively to all the major cities/towns in the country during the current decade.

(d) Large scale expansion in respect of local and long distance switching and transmission systems and