

drawn from different specialties are working on the complex development tasks.

Microwave target in fourth plan

4111. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target in the Fourth Plan for micro-wave telecommunication system and the percentage of achievement, so far ;

(b) the main difficulties encountered, if any, in the achievement of the targets ; and

(c) the steps taken to remove these ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) The target is 12050 Kms. Works are in progress on 7400 Km of routes and are in different stages of progress. The routes which are already commissioned work out to 11% so far.

(b) Main difficulties are in the availability of microwave equipment, microwave towers and steel.

(c) (i) Our Telecom. Research Centre have, with their own know-how, developed some microwave systems, and their manufacture has been undertaken by I. T. I. Their production in sufficient quantities, however, would inevitably take some time. Meanwhile action has been taken to import microwave equipments and accessories and bulk of deliveries are expected to commence from August, 1972.

(ii) Negotiations are under way for procurement of more microwave equipments from other sources.

(iii) A number of indigenous sources including arrangements in P&T Factory in Jabalpur have been developed for the supply of microwave towers, and some more are being developed.

(iv) Vigorous action and follow up with the authorities for distribution of steel has resulted in a brighter position now.

Construction of New research reactors

4112. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lives of the Research Reactors at Trombay are running out; and

(b) if so, what steps have already been taken for constructing new Research Reactors to replace the above?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No. Sir, No major maintenance work is expected in the near future in respect of APSARA and ZERLINA reactors. As regards CIRCUS reactor, major maintenance work involving plugging or replacement of calendria tubes and if necessary replacement of the Calendria may have to be undertaken in the future. This might involve prolonged shut-down of the reactor.

(b) In order to provide for continued and improved research facilities and isotope production, a 100 MWE thermal research reactor is being set up at Trombay.

Rate of growth of Agricultural and Industrial production

4113. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete and specific steps Government have taken to accelerate the rate of growth of agricultural and industrial production to achieve the postulated rate of growth in National Income in the remaining years of the Fourth Plan; and

(b) what progress is being noticed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) The Annual Plan 1972-73 which was placed on the Table of the House on 4th April, 1972 indicates the various steps that are being taken to accelerate the rate of growth of agricultural and industrial production and to make up for the deficiencies and shortfalls identified in the Mid-term Appraisal of the Fourth Plan to the extent possible.

(b) It is yet too early to indicate the impact of these steps.