

nal Physical Laboratory have developed a process for the fabrication and reconditioning of cathode-ray tubes and T. V. tubes ; and

(b) if so, whether this will be a major break-through in India's electronics industry ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The indigenous cathode-ray tubes may boost the oscilloscope manufacturing industry in particular and the electronic instrumentation industry in general. The smaller picture tubes of 9", 12" or 16" when manufactured based on the technology developed by National Physical Laboratory (NPL) may help in bringing down the cost of TV sets specially of the smaller sizes.

Indo-French Agreement in Space Research

472. **SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR :**
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed Indo-French agreement for collaboration in space research is likely to be amended ;

(b) whether details of other aspects of collaboration in space research have been worked out ; and

(c) the reasons for amending the space pact ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c). India and France have had extremely fruitful collaboration in the area of space research ever since 1963 when the first Indo-French joint experiment involving the firing of a rocket with sodium vapour payload was conducted at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. In April 1972 the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) have decided to set up a joint commission and working groups to undertake detailed examination of the possibilities of collaboration in various fields between ISRO AND CNES.

Joint Sector concept

473. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make a clearer enunciation of the "Joint sector" concept ;

(b) whether Industry Ministers of the States met and discussed this matter ; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Guidelines regarding the concept of the joint sector have been announced through a Press Note issued by the Department of Banking in May, 1971. Various aspects of the matter are, however, under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Diffusion of Ownership of Newspapers

474. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

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

(a) whether the Ministerial Committee on diffusion of ownership of newspapers has submitted its report to Government ; and

(b) if so, when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is under consideration.

Payment of Pension to Political Sufferers

475. **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of political sufferers who are paid pension from the Central Exchequer ; and

(b) the number of political sufferers whose pension is paid from the State Exchequer ?