

OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The Earth Resources Technology Satellite (EARTS), launched by the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America on 23rd July 1972, will orbit at 900 kilometres above earth's surface and can take pictures over the entire globe in a period of seventeen days.

(b) The Indian Space Research Organisation is interested in the problem of Earth Resources Survey through Remote Sensing using a satellite and has had discussions with the National Aeronautics and Space Agency of the United States of America, which has launched an Earth Resources Technology Satellite (EARTS) on 23rd July, 1972. The question of Indian participation in the NASA project is being studied in all its aspects. This is entirely independent of the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment proposed to be conducted with the help of an Application Technology Satellite (ATS-F) to be launched by NASA in 1974 in a geostationary orbit at a height of 36,000 kilometres.

#### Extension of Contract for Manufacture of Pentacopa Exchange

540. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have once again extended the contract with ITT-BTM combine for collaboration in the manufacture of Pentacopa Exchange system ; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such extension ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SNRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Agreement has been extended by one year beyond the 20th May, 1972, without payment of royalty. Certain restrictive clauses contained in the agreement with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company (BTM) have also been deleted or suitably amended. They have also further assured to fulfil all the obligations enjoined on them.

#### Use of NASA'S Satellite for experiments with Instructional Television

541. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR :

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government will reconsider use of American NASA Satellite for experiments with instructional television ; and

(b) what machinery at inter-ministry level has been evolved for using the American satellite for experiments on our territories ?

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) No Sir

(b) Appropriate inter-Ministerial Committees have been set up, with representatives from the various concerned Ministries, to consider various aspects of the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment.

#### Rocket Launching Station at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh

542. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made in developing Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh as a major rocket launching station ;

(b) the anticipated time to be taken to complete the construction of the station and the estimated cost of the project ;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the project ; and

(d) the comparative role of Sriharikota and Thumba Rocket stations in relation to Space Research ?

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) The approach bridge and road from Sullurapetta, a launching pad and a block house have been completed. The rocket assembly building and a hardware store are nearing completion. The electrical sub-station is operational. The range has become operational and the first rockets were launched in October, 1971.

(b) The planning of various other facilities to be set up at Sriharikota is currently