

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

in progress. Pending completion of this, details of the anticipated time and cost of the various units to be established at Sriharikota are not available.

(c) The expenditure incurred upto 31-3-1972 on the facilities at Sriharikota is Rs. 96 lakhs.

(d) While the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station is a U. N. sponsored sounding rocket range for experiments in the region of the earth's magnetic equator, the Sriharikota range is intended to provide facilities for flight testing of single or multi-stage rockets and for the launching of scientific and technical satellites using multi-stage rockets. At Thumba, only smaller rockets which are already proved can be fixed for sounding-rocket experiments only. For the launching site for satellites a location like Sriharikota on the east coast is preferred in order to get the advantage of the earth's rotation.

Cell for Implementation of Licences

543. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an "Implementation Cell" with a view to removing the hurdles in the implementation of licences issued; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government are considering the constitution of an Implementation Committee broadly to review the position of implementation of letters of intent and licences issued under the I (D&R) Act; examine delays with the holders of such letters and licences; identify specific problems faced generally or in particular industries which delay implementation and evolve solution for them; and, take steps generally to expedite matters relating to registration of units, allocation of raw materials, release of other scarce resources, etc.

Changes in Industrial Policy Resolution

544. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-
GRAHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in the Industrial Policy Resolution in order to help the industrial development of backward states and backward areas and also the early implementation of the licences issued; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the changes proposed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). There is no need to make any change in the Industrial Policy Resolution to help the industrial development of backward States and areas. The difficulty arises only in the implementation of the policy. Various incentives are already being provided by way of concessional finance and subsidies to attract industries to the backward regions.

Abolition of Privileges of former Rulers

545. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI M. KATHIAMUTHU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Bill seeking to abolish the privileges that the former princes have been enjoying despite the passage of 26th Amendment to the Constitution; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. G. PANT): (a) and (b). With the omission of article 362 from the Constitution, the former Rulers are no longer entitled to any privileges. Instructions have already been issued for the withdrawal of privileges given by executive orders. It is also proposed to introduce, in this session, legislation to amend the laws under which certain privileges were conferred on the former Rulers.

C. B. I. Inquiry against Asian Cables Corporation Ltd.

546. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation was asked to investigate into the