

Atomic Energy and more recently by the Energy Survey Committee appointed by the Government. These studies have established that in certain locations remote from cheap coal supplies and where hydro energy is not available, nuclear energy is already competitive. During the 1970's when the technology of using thorium has been satisfactorily resolved, nuclear energy will be increasingly competitive, that is, it will be competitive even in areas near the coal fields.

#### **Survey of Minerals Division**

**1006. Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Minerals Division has surveyed the country in search of uranium and thorium deposits and other materials of potential interest for atomic energy work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) Yes.

(b) Surveys carried out in the country have yielded the most favourable results in the Singhbhum Trust Belt in Bihar where the main deposits of uranium are located at Jaduguda, Narwa Pahar, Bhatin and Keruadungri. The Uranium Mines at Jaduguda, which are at present the major proved sources of uranium ore in the country, are being developed to produce 1,000 tonnes of uranium ore per day. The other three deposits are also being developed.

Significant uranium occurrences have also been found in Kulu, Panjab and in the range of Himalayas bordering U.P. These deposits are currently under investigation.

Investigations have also shown huge deposits of monazite, which is the principal source of Thorium, in beach placers, coastal dune sands and in the sea beds along both the West and East coasts of India. Rich inland

placer deposits of monazite have also been found in Eastern India.

Detailed information regarding these investigations including their results is furnished in the annual reports of the Department of Atomic Energy, which are circulated to the Members of Parliament.

#### **Telephone Exchange, Faridabad**

**1007. Dr. B. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the installation of an Automatic Telephone Exchange at Faridabad (Punjab) stands at present;

(b) when the Exchange will open to public traffic;

(c) the number of industrialists at present on the waiting list for the grant of telephone connections at this Exchange; and

(d) how long it will take to accommodate them after the opening of the new Exchange?

**The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) Final stage.

(b) A 1,000 lines auto exchange will be opened in September, 1965.

(c) No separate waiting list is maintained for the industrialists. However the number of waiting applicants at present is:

OYT—43.

Non OYT—600

(d) By March 1966, nearly 500 connections are expected to be given. To meet the increasing demand the auto exchange is further proposed to be expanded to 1,500 lines.

#### **Telephone Exchange, Sundernagar Tatanagar**

**1008. Dr. B. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to