

provides services to an estimated 78 per cent of population of the State which would increase to about 92% on completion of the spill over schemes of the VIII Plan. This compares quite favourably to the national average of about 76% of population at present and 84% to be achieved on commissioning of projects initially sanctioned under the VII Plan.

(b) Whereas there is no proposal at present to set up a TV transmitter at Jhanjhar-pur in Madhubani district of Bihar, it is the endeavour of Doordarshan to provide TV service to the uncovered parts of the country as expeditiously as possible, dependent upon availability of funds.

[English]

Chairman of UTI

7418. SHRIKUSUMAKRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Unit Trust of India has been replaced; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Dr. S.A. Dave has been appointed Chairman of the Unit Trust of India with effect from 30th March, 1990, with the former Chairman having proceeded on leave.

Opening of Bank Branches in Bilwara District

7419. SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks which have applied for issue of licences for opening their branches in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan;

(b) the locations where these banks propose to set up their branches; and

(c) the time by which licences are likely to be issued to these banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1985-90), allotment of centres in the rural and semi-urban areas was made by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to banks on the basis of lists of identified centres received from State Governments. Under this Policy, RBI allotted 18 rural and semi-urban centres to various banks in Bhilwara District of Rajasthan and the banks have opened branches at the centres allotted to them. The banks are expected to apply for opening of new branches after the new licensing policy will be announced by RBI.

News Item "India on the Brink of a Debt Crisis"

7420. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:

SHRI T. BASHEER:

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India on the brink on a debt crisis" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 27th March, 1990;

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to assert its authority under Article 292 of the

Constitution to Union Government borrowings, both internal and external; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) New Delhi edition of the Hindustan Times on 26th March 1990 carried a news item under the heading "India may fall into a debt trap".

(b) to (c). Government is keeping a close watch on the growth in debt liability in order to keep it within prudent limits and within the debt servicing capacity of the country. As regards legislation under article 292 of the Constitution, while Government is keeping its options open, it is only through increasing revenue receipts and curtailing total Government expenditure both on Non-Plan and Plan accounts that the need for borrowings can be effectively minimised.

Increase in Export to USSR

7421. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the percentage increase registered in the exports and imports trade with USSR during 1988-89 and the likely trade figures for 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): As per the provisional trade figures available, Indian Exports to the USSR during 1988-89 registered a growth of about 32% as compared to the previous year and the imports declined by about 4% during the same period. The Indo-Soviet Trade Plan is always drawn up on a calendar year basis and the Trade Plan for 1990 envisages a trade turnover of Rs. 8800 crores comprising of Indian exports to USSR of Rs. 5300 crores and imports from the USSR into India of Rs. 3500 crores.

[*Translation*]

Steel Technology Centers in Punjab

7422. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have now transferred the location of the proposed steel technology centre to be set up earlier at Mandi Gobindgarh in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the time by which this centre will be set up;

(c) whether one more steel technology centre is also proposed to be set up in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). A proposal to set up a permanent complex for the National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) is under consideration. A Centre for rerolling mills under the aegis of NISST is already functioning at Mandi Gobindgarh. The location for the main Institute premises has not yet been decided.

[*English*]

Providing of a Transposer in Gunupur Sub-Division

7423. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Power T.V. Transmitter at Bhavanipatna in Orissa would cover the entire Gunupur sub-division of Koraput district; and