

(d) whether Union Government have withheld its approval on any such proposal submitted by State Government for issuing letters of intent; and

(e) whether Union Government propose to delete above minerals from Schedule-I of the Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 so that their lease is awarded without any delay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). For grant/renewal of prospecting licence and mining lease in respect of minerals including limestone, dolomite and bauxite listed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is required; but no letter of intent is required to be issued. Minerals of national importance, whether strategically, economically or otherwise, have been placed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal at present for deletion of minerals like limestone, dolomite and bauxite from the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

[English]

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

7452. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Govern-

ment has been drawn to the three point plan for the protection of intellectual property rights recently recommended by the Indo-US Joint Business Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of the joint recommendations made at the 13th meeting of Indo-US Joint Business Council held in Washington on 5-6 April, 1990 were that intellectual property rights should be strengthened as regards:—

(i) minimum standards of protection;

(ii) good enforcement mechanism; and

(iii) adequate dispute settlement procedures.

(c) Our laws contain adequate standards of protection as well as enforcement mechanisms. We are participating in discussions/negotiations on dispute settlement mechanisms in various multilateral fora.

Setting up of T.V. Transmission Centres in Ratnagiri and Raigad in Maharashtra

7453. **SHRI A.R. ANTULAY:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to instal T.V. transmission centres to cover the far-flung backward areas of Ratnagiri and Raigad districts of Maharashtra;