

(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;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) There is no approved scheme at present to establish TV transmitters in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts of Maharashtra.

(c) Whereas a low power TV transmitters is functioning at Ratnagiri, parts of Raigad district receive TV service from the high power TV transmitter at Bombay. Extension of TV service to the uncovered parts of Ratnagiri and Raigad districts would depend upon the availability of resources for this purpose during the VIII Plan.

Special Grant to Punjab

7454. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have sanctioned/propose to sanction special grant for the improvement of certain cities in Punjab as provided for Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Spices Import

7455. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of each item of major spices imported during the last year;

(b) how much of these are produced in India;

(c) the contribution of Kerala in the production of each of these items; and

(d) whether Government propose to import those spices only through canalised agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Joint Ventures Abroad by M.M.T.C.

7456. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to allow Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to have joint ventures with certain companies abroad to ensure long term continuous supply of essential commodities to be imported;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the names of the countries as well as the items likely to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). Preliminary proposals have been received by MMTC for setting up joint ventures in the United States of America and Jordan for manufacturing Phosphoric Acid/DAP so as to ensure stable source of supply at competitive prices. No concrete proposals have emerged.

Export of Prawns

7457. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: