

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat have been informed that taking into consideration the present and projected production of natural gas from Bombay High and South Bassein by Oil and Natural Gas Commission, and the supplies being made the supplies already committed on a regular basis to consumers in priority sectors for their future requirements, supply of gas on a regular basis to their proposed sponge-iron plant does not appear to be feasible at present.

Competition among Cottage, Small Scale and Large Industries

*313. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to unequal competitions between cottage industries, small scale industries and large scale industries the decentralised sector suffers considerably ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to implement in a phased manner the policy of preventing manufacture in small scale sector those commodities which can be produced in cottage industry sector and preventing manufacture in large scale sector of those commodities which can be produced in small scale sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Cottage, small scale and large scale industries sectors form important segments of the Indian economy. While each of them has its own role to play in the development of the economy, they are, to a large extent, inter-dependent. The policy frame, therefore, has to provide for simultaneous and complementary development of these sectors so that all of them improve their economic performance. Keeping this in view, certain items have been reserved for manufacture in the small scale sector. Further, 26 industries have been selected for promotion by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Special Tax concessions, lower rate of interests, etc., have been provided to the small and cottage sectors.

[Translation]

Deterioration in Telephone Services in Uttar Pradesh.

*315 SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone services have deteriorated in Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Gazipur, Deoria, Ballia and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh ; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken to improve the telephone services in the above districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) During the last months of August, September and October, 1985, there has been improvement in the effective percentage of trunk calls in all the 6 districts towns. As regards complaints and faults in the local telephone service, there has been improvement in Azamgarh, Deoria and Varanasi. In Ballia, there is no change.

All efforts are being made to further improve the telephone services in all the above districts by monitoring and taking remedial actions at various levels.

[English]

Introduction of digital version of Ultra High Frequency Equipment

*319. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6404 on 14 May, 1985 regarding setting up of Ultra High Frequency System at Balurghat of West Dinajpur (West Bengal) and state :

(a) whether digital version of UHF equipment is much costlier than analogue version of UHF equipment ;

(b) if so, the difference in their cost ;

(c) the reasons for introducing this new system in spite of financial constraints ;

(d) whether digital UHF system will meet the remunerativeness of a project, particularly in small capacity side routes