

of Japan for manufacture of Multi-Access Rural Radio Telephone System (MARR). The proposal envisages manufacture of MARR system for hilly and remote areas. 24 Systems (providing for 600 remote telephones to be connected) will be produced per annum in ITI's Naini unit near Allahabad. The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 97 lakhs. The implementation of the project is expected to start this year and completion achieved in 3 years.

The agreement provides for know-how transfer for manufacture of MARR equipment, supply of special purpose machines, test equipments to be used for manufacture of MARR equipment.

Shortage of Petrol and Petroleum Products

*324. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is scarcity of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products in various parts of the country, particularly in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve the problem and to make these products easily available throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For easy availability of petroleum products in the country, various measures are being taken. These include :—

- (i) Expansion of net-work of retail outlets and dealerships of petroleum products.
- (ii) Product pipelines are being planned and constructed.
- (iii) Taluka Kerosene Depots (TKDs) are being set-up to ensure availability of kerosene in hilly and far flung areas.
- (iv) Storage and road movement capacity is being augmented.

Enforcement of Hire Purchase Act, 1972

3204. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received for issue of a notification to enforce the Hire Purchase Act, 1972, which has been twice notified to come into force but later revoked during 1972-73 and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon ; and

(b) the reasons why the Act has not been enforced so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received certain representations which have urged that either fresh legislation incorporating various recommendations of the Banking Law Committee made in its report on Personal Property Security Law (1977) should be brought forward or, alternatively, the Act may be enforced after making certain amendments. However, in the said report, the Banking Law Committee had proposed certain far-reaching amendments to the Act. The Reserve Bank of India had earlier suggested that pending examination of the entire report of the Banking Law Committee, the Act should not be enforced. The Reserve Bank of India have now finally come to the conclusion against accepting the statutory scheme envisaged by the Banking Law Committee and against amendments of the statutes identified by that Committee (including the Hire-Purchase Act, 1972). In the circumstances, the whole matter is being carefully further examined with a view to finalising the amendments required to be made in the Act before bringing the Act into force.

Setting up of Institution for Safety and Environmental Protection for Oil Industry

3205. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had decided to set up an Institution for Safety and Environmental Protection covering the entire oil industry ; and