

Telecommunication technicians on July 26 this year still continues; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle the issues and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (à) Yes, Sir.

(b) Talks were held with the Union representatives as also conciliation proceedings held by Chief Labour Commissioner. The Union was advised to call off the unjustified agitation which is causing dislocation of services to the public.

[*Translation*]

Oil Find at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh

*64. SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that oil is found in the water drawn from the tubewells dug in village Muder, Block Jabera, district Damoh of Damoh-Panna Parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted by Government to extract oil therefrom; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to make arrangements to conduct a survey for extracting oil in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c). The alleged oil show is under investigation by ONGC. The area has been covered by geological, geophysical and geo-chemical surveys. The Jabera prospect has been identified and an exploratory location has been released for drilling to a target depth of 3500 metres.

[*English*]

Scheme for Exploitation of Natural Gas

*65. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major scheme has been prepared by Government for exploiting the natural gas potential in the country;

(b) if so, whether the scheme is in different stages of implementation; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c). Schemes for exploiting natural gas potential are drawn up from time to time depending upon the availability of gas and techno-economic viability of its exploitation. The utilisation of natural gas has gone up from 11.44 MMCMD in 1984-85 to 21.92 MMCMD in 1987-88.

Exports by Public Sector Undertakings

*68. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of exports by the public sector undertakings during the last three years;

(b) the percentage that public sector exports form of total exports, year-wise;

(c) the percentage that such exports form of public sector production by value, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to promote exports by public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). Information regarding value of exports and value of production for the public sector enterprises

for the last three years' period for which data is available is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of public Sector exports</i>	<i>Value of total exports</i>	<i>% of value of public sector exports to total exports</i>	<i>Public Sector production in value</i>	<i>% of value of public sector exports to value of Public Sector production</i>
1984-85	5831.45	11743.68	49.7	52196.86	11.2
1985-86	3822.32	10894.59	35.1	58820.24	6.5
196-87	3941.78	12569.33	31.4	65034.75	6.1

(d) Various steps have been taken to improve exports generally applicable both to the private sector public sector and some of the important ones are enumerated as under:-

1. 100% exemption from income tax of exports profits.
2. 5 years tax holiday also extended to 100% EOUs.
3. Pre-shipment and post-shipment credit now available at concessional rate of interest for a period of 180 days.
4. Export duty abolition on FC tobacco, iron ore and mica.
5. Remission of element of indirect taxes on inputs of export products.
6. Increase in the subsidy of rubber supplied to exporters from Rs. 4500/- per tonne to Rs. 6000/- per tonne.
7. Full rebate on excise duty for promoting export of tea and value added tea.
8. Placement of many processing and packaging machines under OGL with nominal duties.
9. Withdrawal of cess from cashew Kernals.
10. 50% subsidy for submission of tenders to promote exports of products and consultancy.
11. 10% project assistance for consultancy exports.
12. 5% to 10% of foreign exchange earnings are allowed to exporters for undertaking export promotion activities.
13. Subsidy assistance for acquisition of IQ plants.
14. Increase in debt equity ratio upto 4:1 for thrust industries.
15. Liberalised norms to agency commission payment by exporters.
16. De-licensing of export potential industries.

17. Exemption to export production from industrial licensing.
18. Manufacturer unit to export 50% of their production are allowed manufacturing of selected goods having good export possibilities.
19. Formation of separate councils far promoting exports of handicrafts and electronic goods.
20. Setting up to Empowered Committee of Secretaries and Cabinet Committee on Exports.
21. Setting up of Coordination Committee for Agriculture, leather, engineering and capital goods with representatives of Ministries.
22. Supply of indigenous aluminium at international prices under the International Prices reimbursement scheme.
23. Supply of raw materials at international prices to all major export sector which also covers components and consumables.
24. Use of foreign brand names for readymade garments where indigenous fabrics are used.
25. Supply of diesel at cheaper price for captive power generation to those firms which export 25% or more of their production.
26. Supply of levy cement for export promotion.
27. Foreign market development assistance through fairs and exhibitions abroad.
28. Enhancement in the validity period of export licences to 6 months.

Expansion of Doordarshan and A.I.R. In Seventh Plan

*70. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:
SHRI V.S. VJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked in the Seventh Plan for the expansion of Doordarshan and A.I.R.; and

(b) the amount spent so far on the expansion of Doordarshan and A.I.R. in different States and Union Territories during the Seventh Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) A total amount of Rs. 1400 crores has been earmarked for the expansion of Doordarshan and Akashvani for the VII Five Year Plan.

(b) The broadcast/telecast facilities provided at many locations benefit more than one State in most cases. Therefore, the State-wise expenditure cannot be computed.

National Debate on Protection Against Defamation

*71. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINGH & SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has written to various interested parties about a national debate on the issue of defamation and citizens need for protection against such defamation by the media; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the various interested groups thereon?