

watches is good and that is admitted in our country as well as outside.

So, the technology is advanced. Despite that, is it a fact that HMT, a public sector enterprise is going in for collaboration with Japanese Seiko? If so, what is the necessity for going in for such a collaboration?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, the HMT is not going in for any collaboration with Seiko. Already it is in collaboration with the Japanese for the Citizen *ab initio*.

I am happy to inform the hon. Member that HMT has developed its own indigenous technological capabilities. We know that watch technology is also rapidly changing all over the world. New designs are coming up. New types of watch technology is being developed. So if we have to cater to the consumer needs, the consumers' tastes in the field, we have to absorb the technology. I hope the hon. Member will appreciate their new designs.

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि हमारी घड़ियां काफी एक्सपोर्ट हो रही हैं—यह हमारे लिए गौरव और स्वाभिमान की बात है। कैसियो और सिटिजन घड़ियां यहां पर काफी स्मगल हो कर आती हैं और काफी महंगी होती हैं, 1200—1500 रुपयों की पड़ती हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ—क्या एम० एम० टी० क्वार्टज घड़ियां बनाने की कोशिश कर रही है तथा इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है वह भी सूचित करें ?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : श्रीमन् विज्ञापनों से ऐसा लगता है कि कैसियो तथा सिटिजन घड़ियां, जिन का उल्लेख माननीय सदस्य ने किया है, इस देश में यदाकदा पहनी जाती हैं। इस बात से इन्कार करना तो कठिन होगा, सरकार के प्रयत्नों के बावजूद भी इस प्रकार की

स्मॉलिंग के प्रयत्न होते हैं। इसी लिए हमारी यह चेष्टा रही है कि हम अधिक से अधिक घड़ियों का उत्पादन करें तथा हमने घड़ियों के उत्पादन की क्षमता को बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्वार्टज के बारे में बतलाइये ।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : मैं उसी पर आ रहा हूँ। इन के प्रश्न के दो भाग हैं, आप की अनुज्ञा से मैं पहले भाग का उत्तर दे रहा था। जहां तक क्वार्टज का ताल्लुक है एच० एम० टी० को 2 लाख क्वार्टज-एनालाग के उत्पादन का लाइसेंस दिया जा चुका है, उत्पादन प्रारम्भ हो चुका है और वह बाजार में उपलब्ध है।

New Projects of Hindustan Cables Ltd.

*43. **SHRI GADADHAR SAHA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many new projects of Hindustan Cables Ltd. are coming up in the next five years; and

(b) in what States these projects are going to be located with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). A new project for establishment of 30 lakh conductor kilometers per annum of telecommunication cables at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) at a cost of Rs. 59.73 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 26.90 crores has been approved. There is no other proposal for setting up of new projects by Hindustan Cables Ltd. under consideration during the Sixth Plan period.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether to meet the everwidening tele-communication needs and facilities, the expansion of the tele-communication system in the country during the coming years needs a tremendous expansion of the State owned Hindustan Cables Limited also in the future years. If so, may I know the plan made by the Government to meet the future needs in this regard.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, this project takes into account the requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the field of jelly-field cables and conductor kilometers cables also. So, as and when the project is completed, there will be very little gap that will remain to be imported.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: What is the total employment potential of the cable project?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The employment potential will be about a thousand persons.

Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctic

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*44. SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL
SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 21 member Indian Scientific Expedition led by Dr. S. Z. Qasim successfully completed the Antarctic Voyage in January, 1982;

(b) if so, the details of the expedition, difficulties experienced, expenditure incurred on the voyage and the data collected by them in the fields of glaciology, meteorology, Geo-magnetism etc.;

(c) the future plans to send similar teams to explore resources like oil, gas, coal, gold etc.; and

(d) whether Government propose to apply for the membership of the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement in this regard was made on the 19th February. A sum of approximate Rs. 2 crores is estimated to have been spent on the expedition.

(c) A decision will be taken after assessing the report of the team which is yet to be received.

(d) There is no such proposal.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE: Sir, I am glad our first Indian Scientific expedition to Antarctica has successfully landed and the Prime Minister was good enough to move the House to congratulate our Indian Scientific Expedition Team and Dr. Qasim. Probably it will take-according to the note presented before this House-some time before we could perhaps find the results. Sir, I would like to know what are the consequences of our landing in Antarctica comparable to the other nations landing on the moon? In other words, are there any rights vested in us when we land there or is it comparable to the rights vested in the nations which have landed on the moon?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Why not send a delegation of MPs there?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): To the moon? If you put down your name for going to the moon, we shall certainly consider it.