

DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the loss sustained by the engineering industries in West Bengal and Orissa owing to power shortage in 1973 alone; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a). It is not possible to arrive at a precise assessment of the loss sustained by the engineering industries in West Bengal and Orissa, solely due to power shortage, as losses are caused to industries due to various factors including power shortage and also as production figures are not maintained state-wise. However, estimates available with the Government, of losses largely due to power shortage in certain engineering industries, were furnished in reply to Unstarred Question No. 421 answered in Lok Sabha on 25-7-73. The production losses for the subsequent periods have not been worked out so far.

(b) The steps taken by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, to reduce power shortage include :

- (1) Construction of sanctioned interstate and inter-regional transmission links is being accelerated to enable transfer of power from surplus areas to neighbouring deficit areas, so as to ensure optimum utilisation of the available generating capacity.
- (2) The projects which are at an advanced stage of construction are being expedited.
- 3) The progress of civil works is being accelerated wherever possible.

**Minimum Pay in Indian Telephone Industry**

\*565. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed minimum pay of an employee in Indian Telephone Industry at Rs. 367 per month;

(b) if so, whether this fixation of pay is not covered under the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission's Report; and

(c) if so, the reasons for re-fixation of pay of employees ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY) : (a) No—The management of the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore have signed an agreement with the representatives of the workers on the 8th March, 1974 fixing the minimum Pay and allowances of an employee in the Indian Telephone Industry, Bangalore as Rs. 351 p.m. For regional offices and other units of the company a separate settlement will be negotiated and arrived at.

(b) No. The Third Pay Commission's report applies only to employees of Central Government.

(c) The last wage agreement between the management of Indian Telephone Industries and the workers was terminated on 19-6-1973. A fresh agreement was, therefore, necessary between the Management and the workers to regulate the pay and allowances of workers in future.

#### **Indo-U.S. Joint Ventures**

5487. SHRID. B. CHANDRA GOWDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been