

subsidy by the Centre amounting to one-tenth of the fixed capital investment of new units having a total fixed capital investment of not more than Rs. 50 lakhs each; schemes and projects for new units involving a fixed capital investment of more than Rs. 50 lakhs may be considered on merit. The names of these districts are also indicated in Statement.

Discoveries Re : controlling High Blood Pressure and Prevention of Cholera

*977. SHRI B R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Experimental Medicine, Calcutta has recently made two discoveries for controlling high blood pressure and prevention of cholera; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to manufacture and popularise the above two drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) The Indian Institute of Experimental Medicine (IEM), Calcutta has conducted some research on an alkaloid preparation from *Alungium lamarckii* which has indicated some effect on blood pressure but the results are as yet inconclusive. Further work is in progress.

The Institute has also found during the course of a study on the role of four-carbon sugars in Metabolism that erythrose, a naturally occurring sugar, prevents the growth of *vibrio cholerae* in culture by inhibiting the entry of glucose. Erythrose is not, however, likely to be effective in the treatment or prevention of cholera.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement between India and U.S.S.R. for joint exploration in Different Fields

*980. SHRI JADEJA : Will the Minister be SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India have entered into a agreement with Russia for joint exploration

of biological productivity, zones of mineral and immigration of commercially valuable fishes in oceans ;

(b) if so, the area to be covered for each category of exploration ; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by India and Russia for this purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incidents of Cutting of Telephone Wires in Kerala

*981 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of cutting of telephone wires that took place in Kerala during the last two years ;

(b) the total estimated loss suffered by Government thereby ;

(c) the number of culprits arrested ; and

(d) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) The number of incidents during 1969-70 and 1970-71 were 189 and 177 respectively.

(b) The value of the material lost during 1969-70 and 1970-71 was Rs. 89103 and Rs. 55436 respectively.

(c) The number of culprits arrested was one during 1969-70 and one during 1970-71.

(d) During 1969-70 one culprit was convicted and imprisoned for two years ; during 1970-71, one culprit was convicted.

Import of Non-Ferrous Metals

*982. SHRI DHANDAPANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be