

between India and the German Democratic Republic to undertake a joint research project to explore ionospheric wave absorption; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement along with the expenditure (in terms of rupees and foreign exchange, separately) likely to be incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) The Government of India and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have signed a Protocol on 23rd June, 1971 enabling the G. D. R. to hand over an apparatus for measuring the ionospheric absorption of electro-Magnetic waves.

(b) A copy of the Protocol is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-708/71]

The apparatus is valued at about US \$ 200,000 equivalent to about Rs. 15 lakhs. The Indian side is responsible for the erection and upkeep of the apparatus for which no estimate of expenditure has been made.

Proposal to raise Rates of Postal Stationery

*1288. **SHRI GANGA REDDY :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has demanded a higher mail rate; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise the present rates of Post Cards etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not for the present.

Mass Agitation against Failure of Telecommunication System in Tripura

*1289. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the youth and students organisations in Tripura staged a mass agitation on

the 23rd June, 1971 because of continuous failure of the P&T tele-communication system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) and (b). Yes. However, the threatened agitation has not materialized. There has been no failure of telecommunications in the State. The Postmaster General, Assam has been in personal touch with the Chief Secretary, Tripura to ascertain any feasible Telecommunication requirements in the area.

Setting up of Chemical Complex at a Port Town

*1290. **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a discussion took place between the Central Government and French and Japanese Delegations regarding setting up of Chemical Complex at certain Port town; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Government Employees in Secretariate Services

5429. **SHRI ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9935 on the 16th May, 1969 regarding Central Government employes and state :

(a) the total number of officials working in the Central Secretariate Services, category-wise (including Class III and Class IV), as on the 1st May, 1971; and

(b) the number of Muslims in each of the above-mentioned categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and