

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide at least one energy source for each village; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is considering a programme for village level integrated energy projects, based on a combination of renewable energy sources. The systems configuration is conceived in terms of an optimal mix of energy producing devices and systems for a given village.

Opening of branch post offices in Andhra Pradesh

568. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branch post offices to be opened in the country during 1986-87; and

(b) the number of such post offices to be opened in Adilabad and Karimnagar Districts in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). There are at present, 1,28,470 post offices established in the rural areas of the country and the postal needs of the rural sector are, by and large, adequately served by this extensive network. It has, therefore, become necessary to review the criteria being followed hitherto in opening of rural post offices so that within the limited resources available under the Plan, the needs of the least developed areas can be taken care of. As and when this exercise is finalised, a fresh assessment is to be made as to the justification for more post offices in the rural areas of the country. In view of this position, no firm proposals have been formulated as yet for opening of new branch post offices in the country during 1986-87, including

the districts of Adilabad and Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh.

Foreign collaboration agreements

569. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign collaboration agreements approved by Government in 1983, 1984 and 1985; and

(b) the total number of such agreements approved by Government prior to 1983 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Government has approved 673, 752 and 1024 foreign collaboration proposals in the year 1983, 1984 and 1985 respectively.

(b) 4338 proposals for foreign collaboration were approved by the Government during period from 1969 to 1982.

Protection to Auto-Ancillaries

570. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have promised full protection for auto-ancillaries as reported in the 'Economic Times' of 4 July, 1986; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Government has been according priority for the development of Auto Ancillary industry in the country. With a view to augment the protection and moderation of this industry, Government have encouraged the indigenous manufacturers to upgrade their technology through new foreign collaborations. Certain fiscal concessions have also been extended to this industry. This industry has since been delicensed,