

Bengal ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not speak like this. The Hon. Minister is on his legs. Please listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: In Uttar Pradesh the number of major industries is only 67. If you take the country as a whole 6 per cent of the large scale industries and 10 per cent of small scale industries are in Uttar Pradesh and as compared to Maharashtra and West Bengal it is the lowest.

Optical Fibre Cable Project in Orissa

*168. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up an optical fibre-cable project in Orissa;

(b) if so, the place identified in Orissa for the location of that project;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the above proposal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIM. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). M/s. Industrial Promotion & Investment Corpn. of Orissa Limited, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, had submitted an application dated the 10th September, 1987 for industrial licence for the manufacture of optical fibre cable for an annual capacity of one hundred lakh Mtrs., at Chandka Industrial Complex, Bhubaneswar, Distt. Puri, Orissa State. The application was rejected in November, 1987 on the ground that adequate capacity has already been approved for the manufacture of this item.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know whether there has been

any assessment made of the requirement of optical fibre cable in the country in the Eighth Plan. What is the capacity approved so far; which are the units; when will they go into production and what is the progress of these units which have been given licence, in the matter of construction etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : The plan projection upto 1990 is 54,700 kms of optical fibre cable. Licence was given to Hindustan Cables at Naini in Allahabad for 40,000 kms of optical fibre cable In Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Electronics Corporation was given licence for 20,000 kms of optical fibre cable. So far 60,000 kms cable, the licences have been given. The projects are making good progress. The production will start in 1990.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Is it a fact that the Orissa Government 's request was rejected in November, 1987 by the Kaul Committee, but it came up again before the full licensing committee on 28 April, 1988 where the Government of India representative i.e. the Secretary of the Ministry of Industry appeared and explained how it is very necessary for another unit to be set up in the country in view of the projected demand? As you know, this is a new innovation in telecommunications and there is a great demand which has not been properly assessed. In view of the growing demand, will the Government re-consider giving the letter of intent to Orissa Government to set up the industry in this field?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : The optical fibre cable is a new technology and we have already given licence for 60,000 kms of cables. After the completion of this on-going project, we will certainly consider other cases. We have already rejected ten applications, not only Orissa's.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.