

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): The national gas-grid is part of a long term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is under way for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Surplus labour in Coal Industry

708. **SHRI J. P. GOYAL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 8th July, 1986, a section of the workers in the nationalised Coal Industry is likely to be declared surplus;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons leading to such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken by Coal India Ltd. to declare any section of its workers as surplus.

Indo-UAE Cable Project

709. **SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:**

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an Indo-UAE Cable project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA-

TIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A project for the establishment of a wide-band submarine telephone cable link between Bombay (India) and Fujairah in United Arab Emirates has been approved. The cable will have an approximate length of 1969 KM and is planned to have a capacity of about 1380 voice grade channels for telephony, telex, voice band data, facsimile services etc. The cable link will be owned in equal proportions by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited of India and the Emirates Telecommunications Corporation Limited of UAE. The link is expected to be ready for service by end-August, 1987.

710. [Transferred to the 5th August 1986].

Action against misleading advertisements by Pharmaceutical Companies

711. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:**
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Investigation and Registration, Department of Company Affairs of the Ministry of Industry has approached the MRTPC for grant of temporary injunction against 'misleading advertisements' being issued by Pharmaceutical companies to promote the sale of their products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of such pharmaceutical companies and what are the names of the products involved; and

(d) what are the details regarding the other action being taken by the Government against such pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.

ARUNACHALAM: (a) to (c) On an application made by the Director General (I&R) the MHIP Commission has passed orders on 2-6-1986 granting temporary injunction against one company, namely, M/s. Burroughs Wellcome (I) Ltd., Bombay, a Pharmaceutical company for issuing misleading and objectionable advertisement regarding its product, namely Paracetamol, marketed under the brand name 'Ridake', restraining it from:—

(1) Repeating the advertisement like the ones already issued;

(2) Issuing any advertisement whatsoever which contains misleading statement that 'Ridake' is absolutely safe or is 'having no side-effect or implying so by suppressing the side-effects of the said medicine; and

(3) Issuing any advertisement which contains any statement disparaging Aspirin.

The injunction order was made absolute on 26-6-1986.

(d) The Commission has instituted an enquiry and has issued Notice of Enquiry to the Company on 2-7-1986. The hearing in the case is fixed on 31-7-1986.

Proposal of Indian Telephone Industries to instal electronic telephone exchanges

712. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Telephone Industries propose to instal and maintain all the electronic telephone exchanges in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Indian Telephone Industries Limited proposes to instal elect-

ronic exchanges. However, there is no proposal of Indian Telephone Industries for maintaining these exchanges.

(b) The details are being worked out by the Indian Telephone Industries.

PIN Code System

713. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PIN code system functioning in the postal service has fulfilled the expectations in this regard; and

(b) whether the Department propose to go in for mechanisation and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the reports received from the Circles, the percentage of letters containing postal index number in address is 70 to 80 per cent in some places and it is lower in some other places. Efforts are being made to make the PIN Code System more popular.

(b) Yes, Sir. The process of mechanisation consists of equipping Post Offices with electro mechanical counter aids. With the development of technology of electronics, use of electronic gadgets to simplify counter operations for increased productivity and thereby improved efficiency has also been resorted to. The above process of mechanisation is an on going one.

The Postal operations such as Postal Life Insurance, Savings Bank work, Money Order reconciliation have been recently identified for computerisation and these projects will be implemented in certain Circles like Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Karnataka during this year.