

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Various measures are in progress for upgradation of the automotive sector as a whole. There is no decision of takeover of one individual unit like the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Limited.

Proposed fast by Acharya Vinoba Bhave against cow slaughter

1361. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI Ng. TOMPOK SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Acharya Vinoba Bhave has announced that he will go on fast and if necessary on total fast with effect from the 1st January, 1979 in support of the demand for a ban on cow slaughter; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avert the danger to the life of Acharya Vinoba Bhave?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Government have seen press reports about the announcement of Acharya Vinoba Bhave to go on fast in support of his demand for a ban on cow slaughter in Kerala and West Bengal.

(b) The subject of "Cow protection" is proposed to be discussed in the Conference of Opposition Parties in Parliament and Chief Ministers to be held on 17th December, 1978.

Construction of a port at Gopalpur

1362. SHRI Ng. TOMPOK SINGH: SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1910 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 1978 and state that:

(a) whether the project for constructing a port in Gopalpur has been finalised;

(b) if so, what will be (i) the capacity of port for handling traffic; (ii) the cost of construction of the port; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. It is a minor port of Orissa.

Purchase of satellite system from the Ford Company

1363. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRI YOGENDRA MAK-
WANA: SHRI MOHENDRA
MOHAN MISHRA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HA-
BIBULLAH;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently purchased satellite system from the Ford Company;

(b) whether India is the first country to buy satellite system from the said company, which is new in the area of production;

(c) whether quotations for the supply of satellite system were given wide publicity; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The Department of Space have awarded a Contract to the Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation (FACC) of USA, a subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company, for supply of two first-generation multi-purpose Indian