

ten news agencies which have correspondents accredited to the Government of India.

(b) No grant has been given to any news agency.]

#### THEFT OF COPPER WIRES

344. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to the news item appearing in the Blitz dated the 27th May, 1972, to the effect that theft of copper wire from telegraph lines has become a big crime business in India especially on the Jammu-Pathankot route, and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in regard thereto and whether Government propose to hand over the case to the CBI ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Yes

(b) The Government are fully seized of this problem and action is being taken to tighten up security means in conjunction with the State Police Authorities as this is a subject relating to Law and Order.

#### SETTING UP OF A PAPER MILL IN CACHAR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

345 SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the doubts expressed in the local newspapers of Cachar district of Assam, about the future of the proposed paper mill in that district; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps for preparing the project report, taking possession of land, and starting works for development of site ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The detailed Project Report is already under preparation. The preliminary work regarding selection of site is also underway.

#### REMOVAL FROM SERVICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DESIGNS

346 SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of the National Designs has been removed from service; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No post of Managing Director exists in the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Vice-Admiral B. S. Soman (Retd.) was appointed as Director (Administration) in the Institute with effect from 10-10-70 on a purely temporary basis. The Governing Council of the Institute terminated his appointment with effect from 3rd July, 1972, in accordance with his conditions of appointment, as he was beyond age of superannuation.