

that the mechanism of continuing R&D payment to foreign companies was the right means.

12. It was agreed to set up a small Sub-Group to study this question more intensively and report back to the next meeting of the Group.

13. The effects on Indo-British collaboration as a result of British entry into the EEC were briefly discussed. It was the view of the British delegation that such collaboration should increase as a result of the expected faster growth of the British economy. British had no intention of loosening relationships with her traditional partners. The CBI agreed to provide such published reports on British Industry's attitude to the Common Market as had been produced, and would continue to send future reports on this subject.

14. Both sides agreed that the discussions had been, of considerable value and that the work of the Group should continue. The next meeting of the Group will be held in London.

DIRECT TELEPHONE LINK BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLA DESH

495. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct postal, telephonic and telegraphic services between India and Bangla Desh have been established ;

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

(c) the extent of additional expenditure likely to be incurred on this account annually ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) (i) *Postal Services* : Yes, except in regard to parcels, insured services and money orders.

(ii) *Telecommunication Services* : Yes. (b) (i) Surface mails are being exchanged with the Bangla Desh Post Office at convenient points on the West-Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura Borders. Airmails are being forwarded direct to Dacca.

For the present under reciprocal arrangements, inland rates of postage are being applied for mails for Bangla Desh.

(ii) Calcutta has been linked by adequate telephone circuits with Dacca, Kushtia and Chittagong. Delhi has been provided with

direct trunk to Dacca. Jalpaiguri has been linked with Saidpur and Agartala with Akhaura.

A telegraph circuit has been provided between Calcutta and Dacca. INTELEX Service has also been established.

(c) (i) There is no additional expenditure involved in the handling of our mails for Bangla Desh as compared to domestic mails.

(ii) For establishment of Telecommunication Service and for assisting Bangla Desh to restore their service till February, 1972, the Approximate expenditure incurred was Rs. 3.15 lakhs. Annual recurring expenditure on account of the cost of maintenance of communication circuits within Indian territory will be very nominal.

ABOLITION OF LICENSING SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN SECTORS

496. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :
SHRI A. G. KULRARNI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested to Government for the abolition of the system of Industrial licensing for investments made in the core sector, backward regions, export industries and industries designed to promote import substitution ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) No such suggestions have been received by the Government as yet.

(b) Does not arise.

ABOLITION OF HORSE RACE

69. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to instruct all states to abolish Horse-race in the near future ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

•(■) Transferred from the 15th March, 1972.