

the field of Electronics, besides Defence R&D work in progress, an Electronic Commission has been set up at the National Level to formulate and coordinate the R&D and Production effort in the field of Electronics.

(vi) The Defence scientists are being given training in the sophisticated areas of Defence technology both within the country and abroad. They are also being attached to the Services for short periods to help them in better understanding of the Users problems. They are given opportunities to attend symposias/seminars in India and abroad to enlarge their horizon of knowledge by exchange of ideas with other scientists working in similar disciplines.

(c) The expenditure on Defence Research and Development is expected to be double in the next five years.

REVOLVING FUND FOR HOUSING

197. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING/निर्माण और आवास मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India recently created Rs. 200 crores Revolving Fund for house building activities in the country ;

(b) the progress of housing made since the creation of this fund and how much of this fund has already been spent ; and

(c) whether attention of the Government of India in this regard has been invited to a report in the Motherland of the 22nd February, 1971, and reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING/निर्माण और आवास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The recently constituted Housing and Urban Development Finance Corporation Limited is expected to raise a corpus of Rs. 200 crores over the next few years by raising long term loans from nationalised banks and public financing institutions such as the Unit Trust of India and the Life Insurance Corporation.

(b) Of the various projects received from the State Governments for consideration, the Corporation has so far approved five projects for loan assistance, subject to certain conditions being fulfilled by the State Governments/Housing Boards/Authorities concerned. The projects involve an estimated investment of about Rs. 62 crores with an initial seed capital requirement of Rs. 19.46 crores. Funds, however, have not yet been released against any of these schemes.

(c) Yes. The Board has since been constituted and the first meeting of the regularly constituted Board has also been held on 24th March, 1971.

RISHIKESH ANTIBIOTICS FACTORY

198. SHRI S. C. ANGRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in May or June 1970 about 7 tonnes of streptomycin bulk was discovered to be having very low potency and that it caused a big loss to the Rishikesh Antibiotics factory ; and

(b) if so, what action if any, was taken against the persons found guilty for the loss to the factory ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI PRAKASHCHAND B. SETHI) : (a) The quantity of streptomycin which failed during June 1970 was 270 kgs (Base) against a gross production of 1631 kgs (Base). There was no failure due to low potency in May 1970.

(b) The problem is under study by a team of specialists drawn from the National Laboratories and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. as well as plant technologists and Soviet experts.

199. [Transferred to the 7th June, 1971.]

GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT WITH BURMAH STEEL, CALTEX AND ESSO

200. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :
SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND