

(b) whether the approval of Government has been accorded for the setting up of a high level Committee with wide powers for the purpose; and

(c) what improvement is likely to be effected as a result of the high level body coming into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) A proposal is under consideration to set up a high level Ordnance Production Board with adequate administrative and financial powers for the better management of the Ordnance Factories.

(b) Not yet, Sir.

(c) The Board is expected to evolve a more efficient form of management for the Ordnance Factories than at present, making for speedier divisions and faster implementation.

PROTECTION AGAINST SUBMARINE ATTACKS

262. SHRI B. K. KAUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China, has more than 33 submarines with long range missiles with high hitting potency and that Pakistan has been building up its submarine force; and

(b) if so, how far India is prepared to face the eventuality of these submarines forces being used against our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the nature and extent of likely threat from submarines of China and Pakistan. All possible steps are being taken to strengthen and improve the anti-submarine forces—both surface and airborne.

FIRING OF ROCKETS AND LAUNCHING SATELLITES

263. SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the programme for firing rockets and launching satellites for scientific study and other purposes, including programme for television, during the Fourth Five Year Plan from Thumba and other centres in India;

(b) what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred in this connection;

(c) the names of the countries which are helping or collaborating with India in these launching programmes; and

(d) what are the main advantages of these launching programmes?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Details of the programme are available in the brochure "Atomic Energy and Space Research—A profile for the Decade 1970—80" copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) U.S.A. is collaborating in scientific rocket investigations from TERLS and in the Satellite Instructional T.V. Project. Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, U.K. and U.S.S.R. are collaborating in scientific experiments at TERLS.

(d) Sounding rocket experiments are conducted for carrying out scientific research in aeronomy between the regions of 30 KM and 200 KM which is below the operational level of satellites and is beyond the reach of balloons. Details of the other benefits are indicated in the brochure referred to in answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

EXPORT OF IRON ORE ETC.

264. SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state.

(a) the progress made in the export of iron ore, finished iron and