

provided, the time limit for completion and total value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited had completed about 30% of survey and design work by 30th September, 1986. The value of the work completed till 30.9.86 was approximately Riyal Omani 11445 (equivalent of Rs. 3,55,939) under the contract.

(b) The contract involves supply and laying of 2000 K.M. of underground cable which will provide about 25,000 phone connections in 36 towns. The contract is required to be completed within 13 months from 8.5.1986. There is maintenance period of 12 months also. Total value of the contract is approximately Rs. 7 crores.

Raising of DMT price by IPCL

3196. SHRI NIHAL SINGH JAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DMT price was raised by Indian Petrochemicals Limited from Rs. 17,500/-per tonne to Rs. 19,000/-in March 1985 and again to Rs. 21,500/-in October, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of the increase in cost of production that made India Petrochemicals Limited to raise the DMT price; and

(c) the findings of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a). Yes, Sir. However, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited then offered a discount of Rs. 500/-per tonne making the ex-factory price of DMT Rs. 21,000/-per tonne.

(b) The main reasons for increase in the cost of production of DMT by IPCL include significant rise in prices of major raw-materials, increase in power tariff and on account of maintenance and modernisation of the Plant.

(c) According to the cost study of DMT made by Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, the weighted average fair selling price of DMT works out to Rs. 21,000/-per tonne.

Participation of N.R.I. in Oil exploration

3197. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether he met 500 Indian Engineers working in the oil sector at Houston (America) in 1986 and invited them to participate in offshore oil exploration in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the meeting and the number of NRI engineers who accepted the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT):

(a). No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Levy on surplus power produced by Captive Power Plants in private sector

3198. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to levy a cess on surplus power produced by the captive power plants in the private sector;

(b) the price to be paid and the reaction thereto by the private sector; and

(c) the broad outlines of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure increase in power production during the Plan Period and by the end of twentieth century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal presently under consideration of the Central Government.

(c) The steps being taken to augment the availability of power include installation of additional generating capacity, better utilisation of the existing capacity, implementation of the Renovation and Modernisation programme for thermal stations, execution of short-gestation projects, reduction in transmission and distribution losses and implementation of energy conservation and demand management measures.