

Telescope (GMRT) will be commissioned by end of July, 1992 and the first observations are planned by mid-August, 1992. All the 30 antennas will be completed by 1994.

(b) GMRT has several outstanding scientific objectives in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics. For example, search for massive cold hydrogen clouds which are believed to exist in the universe prior to the formation of galaxies according to the Big Bang Theory. Further, the instrument will be quite versatile for investigating radio emissions from Sun, Jupiter and Saturn in our solar system to the most distant objects in the universe. This radio telescope will provide a frontline for Indian scientists for investigating the origin and evolution of the universe. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 43.20 crores. The telescope is being built indigenously.

(c) It will be world's largest telescope operating in the frequency range of 30 - 1500 MHz. Its collecting area will be four times that of the Very Large Array (VAL) telescope in New Mexico, USA. However, the VLA is primarily a centimetre and decimetre wavelength instrument, while GMRT will be a complementary facility at metrewaves.

[*Translation*]

Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

3324. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAOVADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made by the Union Government in the public sector enterprises as on 31st March, 1992;

(b) the number out of them functioning as on date;

(c) the number out of them which

became sick and referred to BIFR?

(d) the investment made in these sick units; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the performance of the public sector enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d). There were 246 Central Public Sector Enterprises with investment of Rs. 113233.68 crores as on available. Out of these 246 enterprises, 54 Public Sector Enterprises with investment of Rs. 9052.56 crores as on 31.3.1991, have been identified as sick, which are referable to BIFR under Sick Industrial Companies (Special provisions) Act, 1956.

(e) Enterprise specific action is taken by the concerned enterprise, administrative Ministries/Departments to improve the performance of public sector enterprises.

Meeting with Prime Minister of China

3325. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and China during their recent visit to Rio-de-Janeiro; and

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed and the broad outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao met the Chinese Premier Mr. Li Peng on 13 June, 1992 at Rio de Janeiro.