

met at present through the services offered by the existing nationalised undertakings and private operators;

- (e) the need for consolidating the services on the routes already nationalised and to cause least inconvenience to the travelling public in the process of take over of private routes.

As regards goods transport, there is no likelihood of the States entering this field on significant scale in the next few years.

In view of the above, the passenger as well as goods transport industry in the private sector will have scope for development and expansion in the coming years. Necessary safeguards have already been provided in the Motor Vehicles Act.

Shifting of studio and office of A.I.R. Cuttack to New Venue

1974. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the reasons for not shifting studio and offices of AIR Cuttack to its new venue?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): The new studios were ready only in June, 1977 and are now being used for important recordings and rehearsals. The studios have not yet been commissioned into regular use for transmission work due to the fact that certain operational difficulties would arise because of the separate location of the office block and the new studios. Work on the construction of the new office block could not be commenced so far due to the ban on construction of non-functional buildings. The ban has since been lifted and the construction work is expected to be started early next year and completed some time in 1979-80.

However, notwithstanding the operational difficulties mentioned above, it has now been decided to commission the new studios about the middle of December 1977.

Indo-German Agreement on Oceanographic Studios

1975. DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bonn Government have agreed to provide project assistance to acquire a research ship from West Germany for joint Indo-German Oceanographic studies;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached between the two Governments; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Negotiations are in progress between India and FRG for acquisition of an Oceanographic Research Ship out of the funds promised by FRG Government for Financial and Technical Assistance to India for 1977-78.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Loss of Industrial Production due to breakdown in Thermal Plants at Patratu and Barauni

1976. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA:

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the Indian Express dated the 29th October, 1977 wherein it has been stated that industrial production has been badly affected in several parts of Bihar following major break-down in the principal Thermal Plants at Patratu and Barauni;