

panies with or without import of foreign technology. If not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Trial runs of Doxycycline in Pilot Plant were started from 16th February, 1979 and trials at the main plant have been started from the end of March, 1979 and are in progress.

(b) As per the agreement with M/s Farmafin the trial runs of Doxycycline were to start in January, 1979 but on account of strike by the workers of the Hyderabad plant of IDPL from 17-10-1978 to 10-12-1978, the erection work of the plant could not be completed. Therefore, the trials were deferred to March, 1979 as agreed to by the Collaborator.

(c) IDPL's cost of production could be worked out after the production has been established.

(d) The matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Gap between Power Generation and Power Consumption

10097. **SHRI BHANU KUMAR SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent months the position regarding power generation has improved significantly;

(b) whether the gap between the power generation and power consumption is disturbing the country; and

(c) if so, steps Government have taken to boost the power generation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) While energy generation has increased about 12 per cent during the year 1978-79 over the year 1977-78, for the country as a whole, the power availability against the demand has been a matter of concern to us in State like West Bengal. The Centre has been advising the States from time to time in expedite commis-

sioning of on-going projects and maximise generation from the existing power stations. While the Centre will always try to help to the extent possible in tiding over a difficult situation in a short period by getting assistance from neighbouring systems, the concerned States will have to gear up their machinery for increasing the generation from within their system by better operation and maintenance of the power stations.

Policy to advance development loans to News Agencies

10098. **SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHE-RIEF:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adopted any policy to advance development loans to all the four Indian news agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government have granted developmental loans totalling Rs. 55.25 lakhs to the four news agencies for acquiring tele-printers, as detailed below.

Press Trust of India	Rs. 17.00 lakhs
United News of India	Rs. 21.25 lakhs
Hindusthan Samachar	Rs. 8.50 lakhs
Samachar Bharati	Rs. 8.50 lakhs

The loans carrying interest at the rate of 10½ per cent per annum are repayable in nine years from the date of release and if the principal and interest thereon is repaid as per the terms of release the rate of interest will be reduced to 8 per cent per annum. Out of Rs. 8.5 lakhs to Samachar Bharati, an amount of Rs. 1.5 lakhs together with interest thereon has been adjusted towards the recovery of two previous loans to the agency.