(e) The steps taken to boost the exports of handloom goods, inter-alia, include modernisation of looms, value addition through designs development, product adaptation, quality and packaging up-gradation and assistance to exporters for participation in buyers-sellers meet and fairs and exhibitions abroad.

[Translation]

Production cost of Crude Oil

82. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment at national level in regard to the average cost of production of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the national averavge cost of production of crude oil is less than that of the average of international cost of production of crude oil;

(d) if not, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any decision on the possibilities of reducing the average cost of production of indigenous crude oil; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T R BAALU) : (a) to (d) The current domestic price of crude oil including royalty and cess is provisionally fixed at Rs. 3296/MT. The weighted average FOB rate of imported crude oil during 1995-96 was about Rs. 4161/MT.

(e) and (f). ONGC has constituted a High level multidisciplinary Committee to examine applicability of CRINE Concept (Cost Reduction Initiative for the New Era) in their operations. CRINE Concept has been successfully used in the North Sea for cost reduction.

[English]

Modernisation of C-DOT

83. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise C-DOT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) C-Dot is taking up projects for development of most modern state-of-the-art telecom products like:

(1) Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) Switching;

(2) Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) transmission Systems;

(3) Optical Fibre Cable and Radio Access systems;

(4) Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) systems

(5) Enhancement of C-DOT Switches for introduction of Integrated Subscriber Digital Network (ISDN) and Intelligent Networks (IN)

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Single National Grid

84. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have a national level planning and have a single national grid for the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR S VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Action for formation of a National Power Grid has been initiated involving inter-connection of regional grids, the details of which are as follows :

i. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Vindhyachal connecting Northern and Western Regions, already exists.

ii. A 1000 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions, is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98.

iii. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back link at Vishakhapatnam connecting Eastern & Southern Regions, has also been approved for commissioning during 1998-99.

iv. A 500 MW HVDC Back-to-Back Sasaram-Biharshariff Project has also been planned to connect Eastern and Northern Regions, for commissioning during 9th Plan.

v. Other links would be taken up as and when additional generation capacity is created and the need and feasibility of inter-regional transfer of power is established.