

(a) whether the Hindustan Cables Limited proposes to enter into foreign collaboration for the optic fibre project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) to (c). Messrs. Hindustan Cable Ltd. and Indian Telephone Industries Limited propose to set up production capacity for 40,000 Fibre KMs of Optical Fibre and 610 associated Optical Line Systems per year. The two Companies are negotiating with Messrs NKT of Denmark to finalise the terms of foreign collaboration.

Import of machinery by paper mills

*730. **SHRI A. JAYAMOHAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of paper mills have imported second-hand machinery which is either not in working condition or has become sick;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total foreign exchange involved in the import of this machinery; and

(c) whether Government have any means or agency to supervise and ensure that the capital goods imported are in good condition and new ones are according to the specifications for which import is allowed ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) and (b). In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply for paper and paper board, Government decided in March, 1974 to permit of second-hand paper machines upto a capacity of 30 tonnes per day under a special scheme. Approvals were given in principle for import of second-hand machinery in about 169 cases. The information about the present working condition of the second-hand paper machines imported and installed in the paper mills is not maintained centrally. In accordance with the policy, import of second-

hand machinery was permitted within a ceiling of Rs. 32 lakhs initially which was subsequently increased in 1979 to Rs. 38.4 lakhs. Since approvals granted were not availed of in a number of cases and as the actual imports were spread over a period of years, it would be difficult to give the details of foreign exchange involved.

(c) According to the guidelines issued in 1974 for import of second-hand paper machines, equipment to be imported should have a certified residual life of at least 10 years and for this purpose a certificate from a Chartered firm of Appraiser was required. No import was allowed without the compliance of these important conditions. It was decided in March, 1981 to discontinue the facility of import of second-hand paper machinery upto 30 tonnes per day with effect from 1.4.1981.

Thermal power plants in Gujarat

*731. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any thermal power plants are to be commissioned in Gujarat during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). Seven thermal power units, with a total capacity of 1100 MW, are scheduled to be commissioned in Gujarat in the State sector during the Seventh Plan period. In addition, NTPC propose to commission in the Central sector a gas based combined cycle power project of 400 MW located at Kawas in Gujarat.

Conservation of Energy

*732. **SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on implementation of the programme for conservation of energy in the country;