

T.V. Transmitter at Gangtok

*599. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether T.V. transmitter of 1 K.W. capacity has since been commissioned into service at Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide programme generation facility centre at Gangtok;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (c). The construction of transmitter building and TV tower at Gangtok has been completed and action to instal the transmitter and equipment initiated by Doordarshan. The high power transmitter (1 KW) at Gangtok is envisaged to be ready for commissioning in 1993.

(d) to (f). A Programme Generation Facility centre comprising a Studio of about 50 sq. metre area with associated technical facilities equipped with professional grade colour equipment is envisaged to be set up at Gangtok and a Mini ENG (Electronic News Gathering) Van would also be provided at the Centre for outside coverage.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Metro Cities

*600. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, city-wise;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone connections as early as possible; and

(c) the steps taken to convert more telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Total number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections as on 28.2.93 is as under:

Delhi	-	346145
Bombay	-	205253
Calcutta	-	62007
Madras	-	109517

(b) One of the objective of the Department of Telecommunication for the eighth five year plan is to restrict the waiting period for telephone connections under General category in larger telephone system areas to two years and provide connection practically on demand for other categories. Accordingly expansion plans are being drawn for Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, subject to the availability of resources

(c) Eighth Five Year Plan of Department of Telecom envisages the following steps to convert more telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges:-

- Replace all life expired & wornout electromechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.
- Replace all small size STROWGE type MAX - III exchange and line finder type MZX - II exchange by electronic

exchanges (as part of the programme to provide NSD to all exchanges).

- Replace all life expired & unserviceable transmission system by digital systems.

Gas For Power Projects

*601. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted any proposal to the Union Government for supply of natural gas or gas-based power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). Requests for allocation have been received from time to time. 1.9 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated for the generation of power in Andhra Pradesh.

Oil And Natural Gas

*602 SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the agencies producing oil and gas in the country;

(b) the number of wells dug both in on-shore and off-shore areas during the last three years;

(c) the number of such wells at present and the quantity of oil and gas being produced from such wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited are the agencies producing oil and gas in the country.

(b) and (c). During the last three years 1150 wells in Onshore and 325 wells in Offshore have been drilled of which 529 are oil and 36 are gas producing. The total crude oil and gas production during 1991-92 was 30.346 MMT and 18.645 BCM respectively.

[*Translation*]

Leprosy Hospitals In West Bengal

*603 SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the place in West Bengal where leprosy hospitals have been opened;

(b) whether foreign assistance has been provided to these hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided during 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, there is no scheme for opening of leprosy hospitals as the emphasis is on domicilliary treatment. A regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute has, however, been set up at Goripur in West Bengal which includes a 75 bedded hospital for leprosy patients.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.