

accidents in collieries. But it has been found that either these safety equipments, like helmets, shoes and other things, are of substandard quality or not given at proper time. I feel that these factors are also responsible for many more mine accidents. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures he is going to take for streamlining this system?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : This is a general question. Continuous effort is being made in order to provide them safety.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Regarding the subsisting fire in the Raniganj Coalfield area, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote to the Government of India about the details of programme and the remedial measures to be taken up in that area and the authorities which would be chosen to take up these remedial measures. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote this letter to the Government of India and what is the reaction of the Government of India to that letter.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : I have already replied to this question. We wanted the hon. Chief Minister to head the Committee because the local law and order problem is creating most of the difficulties but he refused.

SHRI ANIL BASU : How do you know that?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : In order to remove people from the dangerous area, the Asansol Development Authority is there. Previously, Mr. Binoy Choudhury was the Chairman of that Authority. Now, another junior Minister had become its Chairman. The problem is that of coordinating with the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police in that area; the SDO is also involved. But the hon. Chief Minister wants that it should be done solely by the Ministry of Coal; this is what is creating the problems. So, we are corresponding with him.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demand of Private Telephone Booth Operators

*221. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether long distance private telephone booth operators have asked the telephone authorities to allow them access to additional routes to help them to meet the growing commitment to subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to earmark a day each week for providing ISD facilities at reduced rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The All India PCO Holders Federation and some individual STD/ISD/PCO franchisees have requested for augmentation of channels in order that the STD/ISD traffic during concessional tariff hours is not congested.

(c) Constant monitoring is done by the Department to ensure that circuits are suitably augmented based on the traffic. A capacity of 1,42,000 lines (consisting of STD and local junctions) have been added in Trunk Automatic Exchanges during 94-95.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

(f) The recent introduction of concessional tariff for ISD calls made during 11 P.M. to 6 A.M. is considered adequate to facilitate the public to make the ISD calls at reduced rates.

Gas Exploration

*225. SHRI RAM KAPSE :

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has entered into a partnership deal with British Gas for off shore gas exploration in Zaffarana, Egypt in Red Sea area;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the deal;

(c) whether ONGC has signed similar agreements with other companies also outside India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). ONGC Videsh Ltd. (ONGC-VL), a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC, has entered into a farmin agreement with British Gas (BG) for 50% undivided interest in North Zaafarana concession (excluding an area known as Zaafarana Development Lease) in the northern part of Gulf of Suez in Egypt. ONGC-VL will pay 100% of the costs to drill, test and complete a well upto a cost limit. In addition, 50% of the cost of 3D seismic survey conducted over the prospect area will also be paid to BG.

(c) and (d). ONGC-VL signed a Production Sharing Contract with Petro Vietnam in May, 1988 for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in blocks 6, 12E and 19 for a period of 25 years. During the exploration Phase II from October, 1992 to November, 1994, ONGC-VL carried out the exploration activities in partnership with BP Exploration Operating Company (BP), UK and Den Norske States Oljeselskap A.S. (Statoil), Norway. BP and Statoil have 45% participating interest in this venture. Recently ONGC-VL has signed a Farmout Agreement with M/s Command Petroleum for their onshore block known as Fejaj permit in Tunisia, with participation by ONGC-VL to the extent of 40% in the permit.

Regional Language Films

*226. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be

pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan telecast films in regional languages regularly;

(b) if so, the number of such films telecast during the current year and the time allotted for the telecast of the films in each language;

(c) the number of fresh proposals received by the Government from producers of regional languages for 1995-96 in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to allot fair share of time for regional language programmes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Forty regional films have been telecast by Doordarshan during this period in the slot earmarked for this purpose in the afternoon transmission on its national network on Sunday.

(c) Fifty three.

(d) and (e). The revised programme schedule for DD1 and DD2 which became operative from 2nd June, 1995 has provided an additional four hours per week for regional programmes.

LPG Bottling Plants

*228. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

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

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up of bottling plants;

(b) the number of such plants set up so far in the States together with their installed capacity, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some bottling plants in collaboration with NRIs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno-economic feasibility, taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG in the nearby consumption zone.

(b). A Statement showing State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of existing LPG bottling plants of the Public Sector Oil Companies with their capacity as on 1.4.1995 is attached.

(c) and (d). Government is encouraging private investment, including NRI investment, in facilities in marketing sector, independently or through joint ventures with Government Oil Companies.

STATEMENT

State-wise bottling plants as on 1.4.1995

Sl. No.	State	Bottling Plant	Existing bottling capacity (in TMTPA)
	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada	22
		Cherlapally	8
		Vijaywada Vishak	44 44
2.	Assam	Bongaigoan	22
		Guahati	5
		Oil Dhuliajan	25
		Silchar North Guahati	10 22
3.	Bihar	Jamshedpur	44
		Barauni	15
4.	Goa	Goa	22
5.	Gujarat	Rajkot	44
		Hazira	44
		Surat	12
		Gandhi Nagar	26
		Koyali Ahmedabad	102 34
6.	Haryana	Karnal	44
		Hissar	10
		Piyala	132
		Jind	22
		Bahadurgarh	44
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	22
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	20
		Srinagar	7
9.	Karnataka	Bangalore	34
		Bangalore	34
		Mysore	22
		Hubli	22
		Mangalore	44
10.	Kerala	Cochin	25
		Trivandrum	44
		Calicut	18
		Palghat	10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	44
		Bhitoni	44
		Manglia	34
		Raipur	44
12.	Maharashtra	Bombay	122
		Uran	132
		Jalgaon	44
		Sholapur	44