

20 Point Programme

882. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes are contemplated in the implementation of 20-point programme;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions and modifications thereof; and

(c) the reasons for making such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c). the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Oil well Blowout near Amalapuram

883. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) the findings of One-man Commission set up to find out the reasons for 1995 oil well blowout near Amalapuram in Andhra Pradesh,

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government on each of the recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the amount of total loss finally arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The report of the One-man Enquiry Committee set up by the Government to go into the causes of the blow out of ONGC's well at Pasarlapudi in Krishna Godavari Basin is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The total loss incurred by ONGC due to the blow out is now estimated to be around Rs. 26 crores.

Linking of Kerala

884. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a link to Kerala from the Sub - marine optical cable in the Indian Ocean connecting Singapore and Dubai ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above,

(c) The submarine optical fibre cable in the Indian Ocean connecting Singapore and DUBAI SEA-ME- WE 2) is meant for carrying international traffic. In India, it has landing point only at Mumbai and is used by USNL, the Country's International carrier to provide international connectivity. There is thus no need to provide a direct link to Kerala on this cable, as efficient International Telecom Services are already provided to Kerala, through the existing network DoT/USNL.

S.T.D/P.C.Os

885. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of STD/PCO booths working in the country as on January 1, 1996;

(b) the number of unattended card phones out of them;

(c) whether these card phones are manufactured in the country, if so, the manufacturing capacity thereof both in the public and private sector; and

(d) the Government policy for installing more unattended card phone booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 1,07,424 STD PCOs were working in the country as on 1.1.1996

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The present policy is not to provide more unattended card type payphones through franchises so that provision of STD PCOs only to educated unemployed is not diluted.

UNDP Assistance

886. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether UNDP's assistance has been granted for the telecom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount obtained as a result thereof; and

(c) the details of the areas where the said amount is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) UNDP has granted assistance to Department of Telecom for following UNDP Projects, which are being implemented :