

in each Gram Panchayats by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Marathwada District of Maharashtra which have been provided with telephone facility during the Seventh Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 600.

[Translation]

Issue of Prospecting Licences

1216. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the issue of prospecting licences, prospecting is conducted only in a limited area instead of the areas applied for and the report is also prepared on that basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the approval of the landlord of the area other than the area required for the prospecting is essential;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to make provisions that approval of only that landlord is essential whose land is required for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) For grant of prospecting licence, no prior prospecting is required.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per the existing provision of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, the applicant has to furnish the written consent of the owner of only the private land covered by the prospecting licence.

[English]

Water Resources Projects of Orissa

1217. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Water Resources Projects of Orissa pending with the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for delay in according clearance to them; and

(c) the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) The time for clearance of these schemes depends mainly on the prompt submission of satisfactory replies to the observations of the Central Water Commission, resolution of inter-State issues and obtaining clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, wherever necessary.