

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Maharashtra has approached the Union Government to lay the gas pipeline to carry Bombay High crude to North India by the Central Railway line route instead of the proposed Western Railway line;

(b) if so, Whether Government have considered all the aspects of the matter; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra had suggested that the gas pipeline be taken along the Central Railway route, i. e., Surat, Bhusawal, Itarsi, Bhopal and then to Jagdishpur.

(b) and (c). This was considered by the Government and found to be more expensive than the alternative alignment of routing the pipeline through Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan and Utter Pradesh.

Tenders for Onshore drilling Contracts

2238. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has recently invited tenders for the award of deep onshore drilling contracts;

(b) if so, the response thereto; and

(c) whether the bids have been finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes Sir. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has invited two tenders, one for the charter hire of four 6000 mts. drilling rigs and the second for the charter hire of two 3500 mts drilling rigs from Indian entrepreneurs.

(b) Quotation were received from 15 firms in the first tender and 13 firms in the second tender.

(c) No Sir.

S. T. D. facility to Buldana District in Maharashtra

2239. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to connect all the districts in the country by S. T. D. ;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to provide S. T. D. facility to the far flung and backward areas on priority;

(c) if so, whether Buldana district in Maharashtra is included in such a scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which this facility will materialise there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Linking all District Headquarters to respective State Capitals in the country is a plan priority.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. For Buldana district in Maharashtra the District Headquarter of Buldana is proposed to be linked to Bombay by STD during the 7th plan period.

Integrated Telecommunication Network Programme

2241. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question NO. 1888 on 20th July, 1982 regarding Integrated Telecommunication Network Programme and state :

(a) the progress made so far as in the expansion and development of the integrated programme; and

(b) the time by which this work will begin in Barmer (Rajasthan), Mathura (U. P.) and Kohima and is likely to be completed fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Network plans have been prepared, projects are showing loss and are under consideration for sanction in respect of Kohima, Barmer, Nainital and Mathura. Building work is in progress in Kohima and Estimates are under preparation for Barmer, Nainital and Mathura.

(b) The work in respect of equipment installation is expected to start by the end of 1985 in Kohima. Equipment for Barmer and Mathura is expected during 1986. The whole project is planned to be completed by the end of 1988.

Opening of Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2242. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of such places as Mohangarh, Nachna and Ramgarh in district Jaisalmer which have become important places due to Rajasthan canal reaching there, are facing great difficulty in the absence of petrol pumps;

(b) whether the re-assessment of the potential has been undertaken; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Based on market surveys, Mohangarh, Nachna and Ramgarh in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan have been included for development of Low Cost Petrol/Diesel outlets in the Marketing Plan of the oil industry for 1985-86

Encouragement to manufactures of LPG cylinders

2243. SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units for manufacturing of LPG cylinders which have been encouraged over the past three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to encourage some more units to manufacture some more units to manufacture LPG cylinders in the country to cater to the demand of the consumers; and

(c) if so, how many applications from the intending entrepreneurs are pending with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) (a) More than 600 units for manufacture of LPG cylinders have been registered by DGTD. Oil Industry had placed order for three years in 1983 with 21 cylinder manufacturing units.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No application are pending with the Government.

Setting up of National Test Range in Balasore, Orissa

2244. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a National Test Range in Balasore district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the sites selected for that purpose;

(c) the amount estimated for the above project; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The site selected is at the coastal area of Balasore District in Orissa State.

(c) The cost estimates are being worked out.