

and lay down some kind of rotation of seats for Scheduled Castes.

The Commission does not propose to press for adopting the principle of rotation of seats as far as Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

Work at Krishna-Godavari River Basin

26. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :

PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the Krishna-Godavari river basin where gas was struck, work has not yet started;

(b) whether it was declared that utilization of natural gas from the wells in this basin would commence by 1985; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Gas has been discovered in some structures in Krishna-Godavari basin. The extent of gas reserves is being ascertained by drilling delineation wells. Simultaneously exploration is going on for discovering more hydrocarbons. The possibilities of utilizing this gas when produced are being examined. There is no programme of commencing production of gas from this basin in 1985.

Visit of Law Minister to USA in Connection with Bhopal Tragedy Compensation case.

27. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently made a visit to the United States in connection with the case filed by Government against the Union Carbide claiming compensation for

the victims of the gas tragedy in Bhopal : and

(b) if so, what is the latest position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pre-trial hearing of the case in the Federal Court of the Southern District of New York is fixed for 7th August, 1985.

Improvement in telephone facility in the Salem District in Tamilnadu

28. SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to improve the telephone facility in the Salem District in Tamilnadu State;

(b) whether, though an electronic exchange was sought for Salem, only a cross bar exchange was sanctioned; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) (i) A new X-Bar Exchange of 2500 lines was opened in February 1985 at Shevapet.

(ii) Above Exchange was further expanded to 3000 lines in June 1985.

(iii) A new 1000 lines Trunk Automatic Exchange was also opened in Salem in February 1985 to improve the STD facility to the subscribers of Salem Town and other adjoining places.

(iv) During 1984-85, 1607 new Telephone connections were given in Salem Town.

(v) In Salem Distt. 1142 new connections were given in 1984-85.

(vi) 32 long distance public telephones were installed in 1984-85.

(vii) 12 new small automatic Telephone Exchanges were opened in 1984-85.