

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 PATTNAIK :

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.

(viii) STD facility was provided for THIRU CHENGODE town in Salem Distt. during 1984-85.

(ix) During 1985-86 it is planned to provide about 950 new telephone connections in Salem Distt. including Salem Town.

(b) A crossbar exchange of 2500 lines was allotted for Shevapet Salem in 1981-82.

(c) There is a shortage of electronic telephone exchange equipment in the country.

#### Legislation on legal aid scheme

29. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present scheme of legal aid to the poor is not giving direct benefit to the needy poor litigants;

(b) if so, whether he proposes to bring forward a legislation to provide direct benefit to the needy persons; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ): (a) It may not be correct to state that the present Scheme of Legal Aid to the Poor is not giving direct benefit to the needy poor litigants. The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes constituted by the Government in September, 1980 has adopted a Legal Aid Programme which is of two kinds—

(i) legal aid in court or litigation-oriented matters and

(ii) preventive or strategic legal aid.

Pursuant to this programme, State Legal Aid and Advice Boards and High Courts and District Courts Legal Aid Committees have been constituted in the country in accordance with the Model Scheme evolved by the Committee. The Government has also constituted the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee. The programme includes promotion of legal literacy in various ways.

(b) & (c). With a view to making the Legal Aid Programme more effective the Committee is actively engaged in formulating a draft legislation on the subject which will be submitted to the Government for its consideration.

#### [Translation]

#### Opening of Cooking gas Agencies in Azam-Garh, Uttar Pradesh

30. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open new cooking gas agencies in Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Ballia Districts of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year; and;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these agencies are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). The Oil Industry has plans to open new LPG distributorships at the following places during the current financial year:

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of the Place</i>
Azamgarh	1. Maunath Bhanjan 2. Mubarkpur
Jaunpur	1. Jaunpur 2. Jaunpur (DHQs)

In Ghazipur and Ballia Districts, on new LPG distributorships are proposed during the current financial year.

#### [English]

#### Poor Condition of Public Telephones in the Capital

31. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the poor condition of public telephones in the Capital;