

tries in Backward Areas" read with Press Notes No. 4/1/81-BAD (Vol. III) dated 7-9-83 and No. 14/2/83-DBA-1 dated 9-4-85; copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

**Transfer of Latest Telecommunication Technology from United States to India**

6506. SHRJ K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States has communicated to India its desire to give top priority for transfer of the latest technology to develop workable and efficient telecommunication system in India;

(b) if so, whether India has welcomed their move; and

(c) whether any final agreement has been reached and by what time the same is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No specific offer for transfer of latest technology has been received from United States.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

**Allocation of Kerosene to Andhra Pradesh**

6607. SHRIS. PALAKONDRAYUDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether kerosene allocated to Andhra Pradesh from Central Pool is inadequate;

(b) the total quantity of kerosene allocated to Andhra Pradesh during 1985;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the allocation of kerosene in 1986;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (e). Kerosene requirements of various States/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, are assessed by allowing a 5% growth over the allocations made in the corresponding period of the previous year, on a four-month-block basis and allocations are made accordingly. Besides the regular allocations, additional ad-hoc releases are also made to meet specific situations like flood, drought, cyclone, shortage of LPG/soft coke, etc. However, to meet the increased demand, allocation of kerosene for the Winter Block comprising the months of November, 1985 to February, 1986 and the Summer Block comprising the months of March-June, 1986 have been made after allowing a growth rate of  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  and 7% respectively. The allocations made are considered adequate to meet the genuine demand.

A total quantity of 4,28,480 tonnes of kerosene was allocated to Andhra Pradesh during 1985. Allocations during the remaining part of 1986 will be made on the basis of the policy mentioned above.

**S.T.D. Facilities in Towns and Cities of Andhra Pradesh**

6608. SHRIS. PALAKONDRAYUDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of towns in Andhra Pradesh having S.T.D. facility connecting New Delhi and various cities and towns;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start STD facility from Rajampet, Rayachoti, Madanapalle and Kodur in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh to various cities and towns;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 42 towns in Andhra Pradesh are having STD facility

connecting New Delhi and various cities and towns.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Owing to limitation of resources, priority is given for connecting certain district headquarters and telephone exchanges of capacity of 1000 lines and above as on 1-4-85 which are yet to be provided with STD facilities.

**Programme to develop agro-based industries in tribal areas**

6609. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme/plan has been drawn up for the development of agro-based industries nurtured through accelerated investments during the Seventh Five Year Plan, particularly covering the tribal areas; and

(b) if so, its broad features ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Seventh Five Year Plan has placed emphasis, *inter-alia*, on the measures necessary for better implementation of the anti-poverty programmes. The development of agro-based industries is a necessary concomitant of this programme. So far as development of tribal areas are concerned, as has been mentioned in the Seventh Plan, the plan formulations and project reports will be made in close consultation with beneficiary participants with particular reference to the natural resources endowment, traditional occupation and skills of the people and a properly drawn up development perspective.

**Setback in Acquisition of Offshore Platforms by ONGC**

6610. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's programme for acquisition of

offshore platforms is likely to receive a setback in a view of the delay in placement of orders with different yards both Indian and foreign; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to expedite the matter and prevent any possible setback to the ONGC's plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Suitable action is being taken to approve expeditiously the investment and procurement proposals of the ONGC in order to ensure smooth execution of its projects.

**Oil Drilling in Mahanadi Basin**

6611. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. is drilling the ninth well in the Mahanadi basin; and

(b) if so, the prospects of oil find ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early to comment on the prospects of oil find.

**World Bank assistance to coal projects of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.**

6612. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had proposed to coal projects belonging to the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (Sonapur Bazari) and the South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (Gevra) for World Bank finance;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance asked for; and

(c) the reaction of the World Bank thereto ?