

(c) the number out of them which have been technically approved by Union Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (c). The Madhya Pradesh authorities have submitted the project report of the proposed Kutru Hydro-electric Project Stage-I (150 MW) for techno-economic appraisal by the Central Electricity Authority (C. E. A.). Project reports of four multi-purpose schemes have also been submitted which would require clearance of the Technical advisory Committee of the Planning Commission before the power components could be techno-economically appraised by the CEA.

Three Mahya Pradesh hydro-electric projects have been techno-economically cleared by the C. E. A.

Off-shore Drilling in Cauvery by "Early Production System"

4073. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether action is being taken by Government to resort to "Early Production System" in the Cauvery off-shore basin ;

(b) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has assessed the oil reserve potential in the area and if so, the approximate reservoir ;

(c) the time by which the drilling in the Palk Bay would be resumed ; and

(d) the main reasons for discountinuing exploratory drilling 5 years ago ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) The question of resorting to early production system would be considered depending upon the results of exploratory drilling, which is in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir. So far, in-place reserves of 2.83 million tonnes of oil have been established

(c) It has already been resumed since January 1987.

(d) Exploratory drilling was suspended in early 1983 to reassess hydrocarbon potential of the area and to together additional seismic data.

Telephone System

4074. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the telephone system suited most to the Indian environment ;

(b) the approximate time by which the telephone system would improve to the level that a telephone connection could be installed on demand at least in urban areas, as is the position in developed countries ; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the existing telephone exchanges work efficiently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Stored programme controlled electronic systems appear to be the most suited to the Indian conditions.

(b) The target is to provide a telephone on demand by 2000 AD subject to availability of resources.

(c) The following Steps are being taken to ensure that the existing telephone exchanges work efficiently ;

1. Replacement of life expired equipment.
2. Intensive testing of exchange equipment and rectification of faults.

3. Vigorous monitoring of working of airconditioning plant in the exchanges
4. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherited with mechanical switching equipment used hitherto.

Import of technology for usage of LPG for Commercial Vehicles

4075. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had prompted a vehicle manufacturing company in Madras to undertake work to design engine that would run on liquified petroleum gas ,

(b) whether it is a fact that the company designed an engine running on LPG ;

(c) whether the company subsequently sought permission for manufacture of such a vehicle and if so, whether the permission was granted and if not the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with USSR both at Government and company level to acquire technology for usage of LPG for commercial vehicles ; and

(e) if so, the follow up action in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). M/s Ashok Leyland Ltd. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Soviet Ministry of Automotive Industry for transfer of technology for use of compressed natural gas in diesel engines. The Company has not submitted any proposal to Government, for approval of a foreign collaboration venture.

LPG Bottling Plants in Hilly Areas

4076. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether LPG bottling plants have so far been commissioned in hilly areas ;

(b) if so, their number ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c). While no LPG bottling plant has yet been commissioned in the Hilly Areas, five plants are proposed to be set up by the oil industry in or close to Hilly Areas.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Gas Turbine Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

4077. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government is regard to setting up of gas turbine power plants ;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has submitted any project report for setting up a gas turbine power plant at Vijayapur in Guna district ;

(c) whether Government propose to supply gas to this power plant from Hazira-Bijaipur- Jagdishpur Gas Pipeline ; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up more such plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Proposals for setting up of gas turbine power plants are considered keeping in view the requirements of the Region, the availability of gas and