

plexing equipment required for linking that station to national network.

- (iii) installation of appropriate terminations in the trunk automatic exchange to which the station is to be connected.
- (iv) installation of required terminating equipment in the local exchange at that station.

(c) Out of the four pre-requisites for S.T.D. facility mentioned in (b) above items (i), (iii) and (iv) are fulfilled. Item (ii) namely reliable transmission medium and multiplexing equipment is yet to be fulfilled in the case of Ajamgarh.

**Setting up of Public Call Offices in Districts of Uttar Pradesh Based on Multi Access Rural Radio System**

1196. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is a proposal for introducing Public Call Offices in Ajamgarh, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Ballia, Jaunpur, Basti and Gazipur districts of UP based on 'multi-access' rural radio system ;

(b) if so, the number of Public Call Offices likely to be opened during 1985-86 based on the aforesaid system; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) The implementation of these schemes depends upon availability of equipment to be manufactured indigenously. Orders for indigenous MARR equipment for Deoria scheme have been placed on M/s. ITI and equipment is expected in 1986-87. Orders in respect of other districts are under process.

**Telegraph Facility in big Markets of Azamgarh District in U.P.**

1197. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of post offices in big markets in Azamgarh-district in Uttar Pradesh do not have telegraph facility as a result of which people of rural areas have to cover a long distance to book telegrams;

(b) whether Government propose to provide telegraph facility at Surajpur, Maryadpur Dubari; Sipah, Latghat and Thekmapost offices, and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telegraph facility is provided in a post office when justified by traffic. All post offices therefore may not qualify for provision of telegraph facility.

(b) Telegraph facility is already provided at Surajpur, Dubari, Latghat and Thekma.

(c) Maryadpur and Sipah do not qualify for provision of telegraph facility on subsidized basis as per the present policy. The telegraph facility can, however, be provided on rent and guarantee basis if some interested party or State Government agrees to indemnify the Department against the anticipated loss.

[English]

**Off-Shore Drilling in West Bengal**

1198. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has undertaken a Project of off-shore drilling in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether international tenders for the project have been floated, how many tenders have been received by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the names of the companies; and