

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

(c) the target of drilling and how many points will be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) ONGC have initiated preparatory work for undertaking exploratory drilling in Bengal offshore.

(b) Global tenders have been invited for charter hiring of one shallow water jack up rig for drilling in Bengal offshore. Six tenders were received. The names of these companies are :

1. Reading and Bates Drilling Co., U.K.
2. Perforaciones Maritimas Mexicanas SA, Mexico.
3. Permargo International Corporation, USA.
4. Zapata Offshore Co., USA.
5. Forex Naptune International Inc. France.
6. ESSAR, Bombay.

(c). The drilling is likely to start by end 1985. Five independent locations have been identified for drilling in this area.

#### Permanent Bench of High Court at Agartala

1199. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending at Agartala Bench of Gauhati High Court; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up permanent bench of Gauhati High Court at Agartala ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) As per information furnished by the Registry, the number of cases pending as on 31-12-1983 in Gauhati High Court as a whole is 13,403.

(b) No, Sir.

#### Introduction of S. T. D. Service in Agartala Telephone Exchange

1200. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce S. T. D. service in Agartala Telephone Exchange; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be introduced ?

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

(b) S. T. D. to Agartala is likely to be introduced towards the end of the 7th Plan period subject to availability of funds and equipment.

#### Construction of ONGC Complex in West Bengal

1201. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to construct the ONGC Complex in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps ONGC authorities have so far been taken to construct the complex ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission plans to establish its residential-cum-office Complex in Calcutta. Efforts are being made to procure suitable land for the complex.

#### Expansion Scheme of Instrumentation Limited, Palghat

1202. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Instrumentation Limited at Palghat has formulated a scheme for its expansion; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The expansion plan of Instrumentation Limited, Palghat for the Seventh Plan period