

(e) Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign Collaboration approvals issued by Government on 2nd August, 1985 would be governed by old guidelines.

(c) to (e). No such cases are pending with this Ministry for want of clarification.

Corporation for Telephones

4291. SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme to set up a Corporation for Bombay and Delhi Telephones has been approved by Government with a view to increase the efficiency of the services in these two major cities and also for additional resources;

(b) the reasons for not including Madras and Calcutta in the said scheme;

(c) whether Madras and Calcutta are proposed to be included in the near future; and

(d) if so, when ?

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

(b) Only the two largest metropolitan telephones systems have been included in the scheme.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal now.

Oil/Gas Drilling Activities in Maharashtra

4292. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of points where drilling for oil/gas is now going on in Maharashtra both offshore and onshore;

(b) whether the pace of work has been slowed down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to accelerate the process of drilling in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) 13 wells are being drilled in Bombay Offshore basin; no drilling is in progress onland Maharashtra.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Drilling is going on in Bombay Offshore basin according to plan.

Encouragement to Women entrepreneurs

4293. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government policies aim at encouraging young women entrepreneurs to participate in nation building through small business development programmes offered by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to organise suitable information and guidance centres for women, especially in some of the hill areas like Sikkim; and

(c) whether Government also propose to liberalise further terms to encourage easy entry of young enterprising women in small industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Small Industries Development Organisation through a network of 26 Small Industries Service Institutes and 32 Branch Institutes and other Institutions conduct Entrepreneurial Development Programmes all over the country for the benefit of small scale industrialists including women. Some courses are conducted exclusively for women entrepreneurs. The State Governments are also organising such programmes.