

(b) No, Sir. Existing STD lines are adequate to handle the traffic. Three additional lines in Delhi-Srinagar direction and 8 in Jammu-Delhi direction have been proposed to meet the traffic growth.

(c) For better STD service, additional lines from Jammu Trunk Automatic Exchange to SPC Trunk Automatic Exchange, Delhi and lines in the reverse direction have been planned. A Trunk Automatic Exchange has also been proposed at Srinagar during 7th Five-Year Plan.

#### **Transfer of Haldia Petro-Chemicals Project from State Sector of Joint Sector**

4338. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haldia Petro-chemicals project is being transferred from state sector to joint sector;

(b) whether its debt-equity ratio has been finalised;

(c) if so, whether there is any prospect of the project requiring any further Central approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The better of intent for the setting up of the Haldia Petrochemical Complex is at present in the name of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., who has concluded an agreement with Goenkas to form a joint sector company for implementation of the project. The debt equity ratio contemplated by the new company is 3:1. Usual approvals such as, clearance under MRTP Act, and for transfer of letter of intent to the new company, import of technology, capital goods will require to be obtained.

#### **Execution of Power Projects to Overcome Shortage of Power in States**

4339. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the execution of some power projects has been inordinately delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target date set for the completion of such projects; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the execution of those projects to overcome the power shortage and give relief to worst-affected States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main reasons of delay in completion of the projects relate to difficulties in land acquisition, change in the scope of the projects, delay and non-sequential supply of equipment, paucity of funds, shortage of key construction materials, labour problems, unexpected geological conditions at the sites, design and engineering problems etc.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) A number of measures have been taken to assist the State/Project authorities in expediting the completion and commissioning of Power Projects. These measures include regular monitoring of the project by Central Electricity Authority, expediting supply of equipments and materials, visit to Project sites by senior officers to assist in resolving problems etc. State Electricity Boards have also been asked to further improve project management and project implementation.

#### **Oil Exploration in Saurashtra Region**

4340. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Saurashtra off shore oil and natural gas exploration has been successful till date;

(b) whether the experiment made there is being reviewed; and

(c) if so, the financial allocation made for such exploration there ?