

5. 128 P C-DOT at Maithan District Chamoli
6. 128 P C-DOT at Gaja, District Tehri
7. 128 P C-DOT at Jamnikhal, District Tehri
8. 128 P C-DOT at Bachhelikhat, district Tehri
9. 128 P C-DOT at Gangotri, District Uttarkashi
10. 128 P C-DOT at Paukhal, District Pauri Garhwal
11. 128 P C-DOT at Kandakhat, District Pauri Garhwal

A number of exchanges in these hilly districts would also be expanded during 1995-96. STD to 20 THQs is also planned during the financial year.

[Translation]

Grant of Freedom Fighters Pension

3210. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether different procedures are being following for grant of freedom fighters pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the affidavit from courts in regard to torture or absconding or affidavit in regard to non-availability of the same or the certificate of the prominent freedom fighters of the district is not given recognition for grant of pension;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether pension has been sanctioned in such cases as per court directions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The scheme itself provides the eligibility criteria and the documents required to be produced in support of the claimed sufferings during freedom struggle. Claims for grant of pension are considered and disposed as per the procedure laid down under the scheme and various instructions issued thereunder from time to time.

(c) and (d) The evidence which is not in conformity with the provisions of the scheme i.e. affidavit above cannot be considered for grant of pension. The certificated of prominent freedom fighters, as per provisions of the scheme, can be considered only if it is confirmed to the satisfaction of the Government, that official records of the relevant time are not available.

(e) and (f) In few cases, some courts, directed the Government to sanction pensions on the consideration that they have complied with the requirements under the scheme. If as per provisions of the scheme such considerations were not acceptable, Government has/is contest-

ing such decisions through Appeals/Review Petitions before appropriate courts. Since directions to release pension have been passed by various courts from time to time, it is not possible to give details of all such cases as no separate record had been kept.

[English]

Working of NHRC

3211. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are complaints that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been venturing into such fields as pollution of environment, lack of housing etc. instead of concentrating on violations of such human rights to look into for which it was primarily set up;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of the achievements of the working of NHRC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Government are aware of certain reports in the media, etc. in which views about the National Human Rights Commission venturing into fields such as pollution of environment, lack of Housing etc., instead of concentrating on violation of human rights, have been expressed. The functions of the Commission, as set out in section 12 of the protection of the Human Rights Act, 1993, are not confined merely to conduct of inquiries into allegations of violations of human rights. However, the Government's view is that the commission should not lose its focus on civil liberties and Human Rights.

(b) and (c) The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 has been under implementation for a period of less than two years. It would be premature to make comments on the successes & failure of the working of the Act and the commission established thereunder. The commission submits an Annual Report; which is laid before both houses of Parliament. This also provides an opportunity for evaluating the performance of the commission and the working of the Act, and for discussions on any Period thereof. The commission submitted its first Annual Report for the year 1993-94 on 3.6.94 (which was laid in Parliament on 26 August, 1994. The Government has also received commission's second Annual report for the year 1994-95 on 16 June, 1995 which is being processed for being laid in both houses of Parliament.)

Drilling of Oil Wells

3212. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells drilled so far in Ramanathapuram district by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, and the number of wells likely to be drilled during the current year;

(b) the result achieved/likely to be achieved therefrom;

(c) whether the Government propose to invite private sector for drilling operations in the above district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) So far 8 exploratory wells have been drilled in Ramanathapuram district by Oil and Natural Gas corporation Limited.

One location Melur-1 is taken up for drilling. Further, one; more location is likely to be taken up during the current year after completion of drilling of Melur-1.

(b) As on 1.4.95, 909 MMm3 of initial inplace gas reserves have been established in Perungulam area. The continued exploratory activities are expected to increase hydrocarbon reserves in the area.

(c) and (d) One block CY-ON-OS-1 (area 4725 sq.kms.) which partly lies in Ramanathapuram district and covers onshore and offshors part was offered in VII round of exploration bidding. One bid for this block has been received.

Transmitters in Gujarat

3213. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :
DR. K.D. JESWANI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from Government of Gujarat to convert the Low Power Transmitter (LPT) in Bhuj into a High Power Transmitter (HPT) and to change the locations of some of the HPTs in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) A representation was received from the Government of Gujarat for upgradation of the Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Bhuj into High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) and shifting of the HPT at Dwarka to an alternate site in the same district in view of the restricted coverage emanating from the transmitter.

(c) Whereas a High Power TV Transmitter (10 KW)

has already been commissioned at Bhuj with a temporary tower pending construction of 300M tower, which is expected to be completed during 1996-97, an alternate site has also been taken over at Dwarka for shifting of the existing HPT.

[Translation]

Southern Gas Grid

3214. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the Southern Gas Grid project;

(b) whether the Government proposed to utilise additional gas of Bombay High for the Sourthern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of gas required in the Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) the concept of the Southern Gas Grid has been accepted in principle.

(b) and (c) The concept envisages the transportation of surplus gas from Western Off-shore, to be supplemented by imported gas/LNG.

(d) The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation has commissioned a study to assess, inter-alia, the demand for natural gas in the Southern States.

[English]

Welfare Schemes For SCs/STs

3215. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed under welfare schemes for SCs/STs in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last two years;

(b) the extent to which targets have been achieved; and

(c) the reasons for failure in achieving these targets, if any?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) The releases of central assistance under the various schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made on the basis of the performances of the State Governments and the matching budget provisions made by the State Governments in their budget. No specific State-wise targets are fixed under the Central sector and Centrally sponsored schemes. However, certain targets are fixed under Point 11 (a) and 11(b) of the 20-Point Programme regarding the number of; Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe