

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Government of India had in March 1995, under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme, invited offers through a process of international bidding from Indian and foreign companies for exploration of oil and gas in 28 blocks in India including 4 blocks in Gujarat-Kutch offshore and 1 block in Gujarat-Kutch onshore.

(c) The names of companies which submitted bids for blocks in Gujarat-Kutch offshore are :

- (i) Larsen & Toubro Ltd., India
- (ii) Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
- (iii) Reliance Industries Ltd., India

(d) No decision has been taken so far.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

Problem of Postal Employees

1860. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement regarding the problems of the postal employees is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the problems of employees are likely to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Does not arise, in view of the above position.

[English]

ONGC and GAIL Petroleum Projects

1861. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ONGC and GAIL petroleum projects approved by the Public Sector Investment Board during the third week of November, 1995;

(b) the estimated expenditure involved on each of the project and the foreign exchange component thereof;

(c) the time by which the aforesaid projects are likely to be completed and commissioned;

(d) whether private or multinational companies are proposed to be associated with the aforesaid projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The following projects of ONGC/GAIL were approved by the PIB in the third week of November, 1995 :-

Project	Estimated Expenditure (Rs. in Crs.)	FE Component (Rs. in Crs.)	Scheduled date of completion/ commissioning
Development of B-173A structure in Western Offshore	120.17 (at December 1994 prices)	99.77	26 months from the date of Govt. approval.
Development of B-55 in Western Offshore	376.74 (at August 1995 prices)	325.90	36 months from the date of Govt. approval.
Setting up of Gas Processing Complex at Gandhar	865.76	66.11	-do-

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to involve private or multinational companies as partners in the execution of these projects.

[Translation]

Telephone System in Rajasthan

1862. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which old cross bar telephone system will be converted into electronic system in Rajasthan particularly in Ajmer and the progress made so far in this regard and the present and proposed capacity of telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Ajmer;

(b) the number of Panchayat Headquarters provided with telephone facility in rural areas in Ajmer and Vyavar districts and the time by which this facility will be provided to the remaining villages; and

(c) the reasons for the telephone services remaining defunct and the steps being taken to make it more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The proposal for replacement of Cross bar exchanges is under consideration and they will be progressively replaced during 9th Plan period.