

**T.V. Centre at Varanasi**

985. SHRI ZAINUL BASHEER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) is there any proposal to establish T.V. Centre at Varanasi;

(b) if so, when is it expected to operate; and

(c) what is the details of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Setting up of a TV Relay Centre at Varanasi is one of the approved schemes for the expansion of TV services.

(b) The Relay Centre is expected to come up in 1984-85.

(c) A site for the Relay Centre has been selected.

**Drilling for Oil and Gas in Tripura in Collaboration with USSR**

986. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement for drilling oil and gas in the highly prospective region of Tripura has been reached between India and USSR as reported in the "Economic Times" Bombay Edition dated 23rd February, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of leader and other experts of USSR team who will be visiting India in the near future for drilling well in the area;

(c) the estimated depth of the well, the expenditure to be incurred thereon, the expected annual oil production and the expenses to be paid to USSR Government in lump sum or in instalments; and

(d) the reasons for entering into contract only with USSR and not with other Western countries and U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VIRENDRA PATIL): (a) ONGC has signed a contract with M/s. Technoexport, Moscow for drilling of one well in Tripura.

(b) The names have not yet been indicated. The Russian team will comprise of 25 personnel. But there will also be Indians forming part of the drilling crew.

(c) The Well is expected to be drilled to 5000 metres and the estimated cost is Rs. 4.5 crores. This being an exploration well, it is not possible to say whether there will be a hydrocarbon find, much less, what the annual oil production would be. Regarding expenses to be paid to Technoexport, these are matters which are normally kept confidential.

(d) Drilling for exploration of oil in Tripura is only a part of an agreement between India and USSR for economic, trade, scientific and technical collaboration signed on 14-3-79. The USSR side have drilled a number wells in difficult down hole conditions in Bangladesh and further the cost of Soviet services where available, has usually been found to be far below the cost of obtaining such services from Western countries.

**National Perspective for Water Resources Development**

987. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Irrigation and Central Water Commission have drawn up a National Perspective for Water Resources Development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what special attention has been given to Backward and under-developed areas and drought-prone Districts; and

(d) whether a final decision has been taken on the "Garland Canal" envisaged by the Dastoor Plan Scheme?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme envisages creation of optimum storage capacities and inter-linking of various rivers mainly by gravity and by limited lifts where unavoidable, so as to augment the utilisable quantum of the river waters for irrigation of about 25 million ha. by surface water and 10 million ha. by groundwater, beyond the presently assessed irrigation potential of 1135 million ha.

(c) The drought-prone, backward, and underdeveloped areas are proposed to be given priority by direct irrigation from the links wherever possible, and by replacement of presently committed waters in other cases whenever feasible.

(d) Expert Groups set up by Planning Commission have come to the conclusion that Dastur proposals while conceptually interesting, are technically unsound and economically prohibitive.

#### **Thermal Power Stations at Nasik and Koradi in Maharashtra breakdown**

988. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thermal Power Stations at Nasik and Koradi in Maharashtra breakdown hampering production of power as reported in "Free Press Journal" dated 25th February, 1980;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a team of Russian experts came to India to locate the fault in the power stations;

(c) if so, the details of the faults located, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to prevent such breakdowns in future; and

(d) the names of the Soviet experts who came to India and the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government of India in this regard and the extent of loss suffered by the Maharashtra Government?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) A team of Russian experts came to India to discuss with BHEL matters connected with the manufacture, erection, commissioning and operation of 200 MW turbo-generator sets manufactured by BHEL according to Soviet design.

(c) Suggestions have been made by the Soviet team to make an over all improvement in running of the sets. They have suggested certain checks to be carried out for this purpose. No specific faults have been found.

(d) The Soviet team who visited India in May, 1980 comprised of:

- (1) MR. G. V. DMITRENKO
- (2) MR. G. V. ANDREV
- (3) MR. B. I. STUPIOHEV
- (4) MR. E. N. ZEIEVSKY
- (5) MR. N. A. SOROKIN
- (6) MR. N. A. PAKHMOV
- (7) MR. G. M. HUTROTSKY
- (8) MR. BALLEEN
- (9) MR. MERZIYKH

The visit of Soviet Delegation was at the cost of Soviet Government.

It is not possible to quantify loss suffered by Maharashtra Government as a result of forced outages of 200 MW sets at Koradi and Nasik due to causes which can be ascribed to equipment deficiency alone.