

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) (i) There is no proposal for transfer of the branch post offices in Bisfi block to administrative control of Madhubani district.

(ii) Jale is already connected to Kantaul in Darbhanga district for telegrams.

(iii) Presently, there is no telephone exchange at Bisfi. However, Bisfi is under administrative control of Madhubani district. Depending on growth of demand, a telephone exchange is proposed at Bisfi during 1995-96.

Jale is already administratively linked to Darbhanga and telephone traffic is flowing via Darbhanga.

[English]

Rural Electrification

3756. SHRI R. SURENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the US based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association during the first week of August 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understand-

ing (MoU) provides for cooperation between Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Rural Electrification Corporation and National Rural Electric Cooperative Society of USA for setting up sustainable Decentralised Power Distribution Systems. Areas of cooperation include development of closer relationship for extending technical know-how, training facilities etc., introduction of new technologies and management systems for reduction of T&D losses, efficient use of Energy, reduction in environmental degradation, use of cost-effective alternate Energy sources, and securing bilateral or multilateral assistance for programme development under the MoU.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Crude Oil from Pipelines in Gujarat

3757. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of pilferage and leakage of crude oil from the Salaya-Mathura pipeline;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of the pipeline; and

(d) if so, the existing and the proposed capacity of the pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). There have been two attempts of pilferage during 1994 but those have been unsuccessful. These instances were brought to the notice of local authorities and FIRs have been lodged.