

Offer of Deep Water Blocks to MNCs

3799. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to offer deep water blocks in India's exclusive economic zone to MNCs for oil exploration;

(b) if so, whether any MNC has since accepted the offer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). Offshore blocks, including deep water areas, have been offered for exploration by private companies since 1980. So far, under different rounds, 11 contracts have been signed for exploration in offshore areas. 10 of these contracts have been terminated and work in one block is in progress.

Crude Oil Vessel's Struck-up in Godavari

3800. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vessel carrying crude oil was struck up in the river waters of Godavari in K.G. Project area, recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release the vessel; and

(c) how much money has been spent for releasing the vessel from the river waters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). A barge, INNOVATIVE-I was grounded on 12.05.1994 at the river mouth of Gauthami Godavari while transporting crude oil from the Ravva Off-shore fields of ONGC. The crude oil in the vessel, except 100 MT, has already been transhipped. The remaining 100 MT has been solidified by adding some chemicals.

(c) The expenditure on the operations is yet to be estimated by ONGC.

Ramps in P and T Offices

3801. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disabled people, especially on wheelchairs face problems in gaining entry into post and telegraph offices wherever ramps do not exist at the entrance points;

(b) whether the Government propose to make ramps for the disabled people at zonal and main post and telegraph offices wherever they do not exist;

(c) if so, the time-frame by which ramps are proposed to be constructed;

(d) whether the Ministry propose to involve voluntary agencies and private bodies in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such complaint has been received from the public.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh Gram Panchayats

3802. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats out of them with post office facility at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). At present, there are 74,377 gram panchayats in Uttar Pradesh, out of which, 17446 have post offices.

Resetting of Dynamic S.T.D in Delhi

3803. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received to reset dynamic S.T.D. in Chanakyapuri Exchange during the last six months;

(b) the number of cases in which STD has been reset and the time taken to reset these STDs;

(c) the number of cases where the S.T.D is yet to be reset; and

(d) the reasons for such inordinate delay and the action the Government propose to take against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, 532 applications were received to reset the dynamic S.T.D in Chanakyapuri Exchange during the last six months.

(b) and (c). In 521 cases, S.T.D. was reset within one month. 11 cases are pending due to incomplete applications/formalities for which subscribers have been addressed.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

[Translation]

Import of Petroleum Products

3804. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of the petroleum products imported during 1993-94;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). During the year 1993-94, about 12.08 MMT of petroleum products for an approximate value of Rs. 7041.43 crores were imported.

[English]

Telephone Advisory Committees

3805. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone advi-