

(b) whether power supply to these villages had been stopped since 1983 which has resulted in unemployment and closure of business etc. in rural areas; and

(c) the time by which persons allotted plots following consolidation of land will be supplied power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Work on Contract Basis in N.T.P.C.
Shakti Nagar and Hind Nagar,
Beejpur U.P.**

1329. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether each work is got done on contract basis by National Thermal Power Corporation, Shakti Nagar and Hind Nagar, Beejpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of works got done on contract basis by these undertakings during the last three years;

(c) whether it is not possible to recruit regular staff for work of regular nature; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). While construction work of power projects is taken up by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) through contracts, the operational maintenance of functioning units is carried out departmentally.

In the last 3 years, 64 major contracts and 580 small-value contracts were awarded in respect of the Singrauli project at Shakti-nagar and 25 major contracts and 280 small-value contracts were awarded in respect of the Rihand Project at Hindnagar, Beejpur. For works of regular nature, manpower is employed on projects against permanent posts.

[English]

Detection of sick Industries

1330. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies which have so far reported their sickness to the relevant authorities with a view to rehabilitating the units of their own;

(b) whether Government propose to take up the responsibilities of detecting the sick and potentially sick companies; and

(c) the manner by which such timely detection of sickness could be carried out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) to (c). Data on sick units are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. Banks and financial institutions are required to draw up rehabilitation schemes in respect of industrial units assisted by them which are potentially viable.

Government have introduced a special legislation in the Lok Sabha on 29.8.1985 viz. "The sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Bill, 1985", which provides *inter-alia* for timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and, establishment of a quasi-judicial body to be designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction with powers to consider and suggest suitable measures for speedy rehabilitation of sick industrial units. In terms of the proposed legislation, the onus of reporting sickness in industrial units would be on these units themselves.

[Translation]

Location of Oil Wells in Seventh Plan Period

1331. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places which will have oil wells alongwith the number thereof during the Seventh Five Year Plan period indicating the expenditure involved thereon; and

(b) whether oil and LPG will be produced at such an economic cost that it would almost meet the domestic demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) ONGC and OIL propose to drill about 2200 wells during the Seventh Five Year Plan in the following areas/basins :

Gujarat

Kutch and Saurashtra

Assam

Arunachal Pradesh

Nagaland

Tripura

Krishna-Godavari

Cauvery

Bengal

Orissa

Rajasthan

Himalayan foothills and Ganga Valley

Gondwana

Vindhyan

Deccan Syncline

Bombay Offshore

Kutch Offshore

Kerala-Konkan

Andaman and North East Coast

The Seventh Plan outlay approved for the ONGC and OIL is Rs. 9702 crores.

(b) It is expected that oil and gas will be produced economically. Since exploration of oil is highly probabilistic in nature, it is not possible to indicate with certitude whether self-sufficiency would be achieved.

[English]

Gas Exploration in H.P. and J and K

1332. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jwalamukhi in Himachal Pradesh and Saruinsar in Jammu and Kashmir have been identified as suitable for gas exploration;

(b) if so, whether drilling operations have already started there; and

(c) if so, the results achieved thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). ONGC has drilled 4 wells in Jwalamukhi and one in Surinar. Some more locations have been identified for drilling in these areas.

(c) No commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made so far.

Customer Services Centres in Telephone Department

1333. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of customer services centres working in the Telephone Department;

(b) whether these are effectively functioning to help people; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to improve the working of these centres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of customer services centres working in the country is 223.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above. However, constant watch is being kept on the working of these centres.