

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission proposes to set up plants to recover Helium from natural gas;

(b) if so, the areas selected for the recovery of Helium from natural gas;

(c) whether techno-economic feasibility report on Helium has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the various fields of operation in which Helium will be used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (d). ONGC and BARC have carried out a joint study to determine the possibility of Helium extraction from ONGC's gas fields in Rajasthan.

Production and consumption of oil well cement

3033. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil well cement manufacturing units in India;

(b) whether any estimate has been made in respect of the demand for oil well cement for domestic consumption as well as for export; and

(c) the potential of the foreign exchange earnings from oil well cement manufactured in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) At present, there are three units manufacturing oil well cement (OWC) in India.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) who are the main users of OWC have estimated their requirements at about 46,000 tonnes during 1987-88. Demand for OWC in export market has not been assessed.

(c) At present there is no potential for foreign exchange earnings as the export of Oil Well Cement is not feasible due to high cost of indigenous production compared to the prices in the International market.

Linking of district headquarters by S.T.D.

3034. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether S.T.D. service is being increased on national net-work;

(b) if so, the names of places linked with Delhi through this service as on 1st January, 1987;

(c) whether some district headquarters of States have also been linked with the service;

(d) if so, the districts linked with States through S.T.D. service as on 1st January, 1987;

(e) the district headquarters to be linked with each other through S.T.D. service during 1987 to 1990; and

(f) the metropolitan cities to be linked with Delhi through S.T.D. service during 1987-1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The information is being collected and will be furnished as soon as possible.

(f) All the metropolitan cities namely Bombay, Calcutta and Madras have already been linked with Delhi through STD service.

Free Railway pass to former M. Ps.

3035. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :