

(b) All the manual exchanges at all the district headquarters are proposed to be automatised during the 7th plan on priority. The manual exchanges at the remaining places are to be automatised progressively during the 7th and subsequent plans depending upon the availability of automatic switching equipment.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

Proposal of OPEC for Fixed Price Structure

24. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are contemplating to phase out the free marketing prices of oil and usher in a fixed price structure of 18 dollar per barrel with a cut in production;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the adverse effects of this proposal on the Indian economy ;

(c) whether the current oil output by members of the OPEC is likely to be below overall output ceiling; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation ?

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) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Government are constantly watching the market situation to derive the best advantage in its purchases.

Soviet offer on Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal

25. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on the revised Soviet offer on the proposed Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present stage and how long it will take to process the Soviet offer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) (a) to (c) An offer has been received from a consortium led by M/s. Technopromexport (USSR) for turn key implementation of the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project. The Soviet side have indicated their intention to submit a revised offer, which is awaited.

Pending Applications for Telephone Connections in Trichur, Kerala

26. SHRI P.A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections in Trichur district of Kerala ;

(b) the number of connections given in the district during the last year ; and

(c) the number of connections likely to be given during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The number of pending applications for telephone connections in Trichur District of Kerala as on 31-1-1987 is 9195.

(b) The number of connections given during the past year (1985-86) is 1217.

(c) The number of connections likely to be given during this year (1986-87) is 1985. Out of these 1672 have already been provided.