

(b) if so, how many wells have so far been drilled; and

(c) with what result?

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Fifteen. Oil/gas has been discovered in two wells in Krishna-Godavari Offshore Basin.

#### Import of Telephone Equipment

2679. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to meeting the country's demand of telephone lines and other telephone equipment;

(b) whether Government propose to continue import of telephone lines and also the equipment like switching system etc;

(c) whether Government propose to develop indigenous capacity both in sophistication and quantity;

(d) whether any long-term plan has been drawn up to develop indigenous capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f). The Department of Telecom. has been keen to reach the target of providing telephone connections practically on demand as early as possible. It has, however, not been possible to allocate the necessary resources to achieve this target.

During the 7th Five Year Plan, it is hoped to provide about 15 lakh new telephone connections which will also call for significant stepping up the plan allocation for the department. Even so, the

registered waiting list may still increase to about 15-20 lakhs by 1990.

The Department has proposed a perspective plan of reaching the target of providing telephones practically on demand by the year 2000 A. D. which will call for increasing the number of direct exchanges lines from the present 35 lakhs to about 2 crores and an investment of about Rs. 50,000 crores in the next 13 years. The perspective plan is being submitted to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

It is the policy of the department of Telecom. to achieve maximum self-reliance both in quantity and sophistication in regard to production of telecommunication equipments. The department has, however, been adopting a pragmatic approach in this regard keeping in view the need to ensure a balanced growth of the network.

Commencing with setting up of the first unit ITI in 1948, the department has continuously been expanding its capacity and setting up new units for adequate indigenous production capacities of various types of equipment. It is proposed to continue this policy. Once a final decision is taken on the perspective plan, detailed long term plans will be drawn up for stepping up indigenous production capacity.

#### Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

2680. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware of the growing rural energy problems;

(b) if so, the measures adopted to solve these problems; and

(c) whether the setting up of more bio-gas plants has been encouraged?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The measures being adopted to help in solving rural energy problems include inter-alia, the following:

- (i) widespread utilization of technology based on non-conventional energy sources which have reached a stage of maturity.
- (ii) promotion of Promising non-conventional energy technologies through demonstration, field testing, public awareness etc.
- (iii) intensification of research and development activity in area of long term prospects.
- (iv) so far over 8.5 lakh biogas plants and more than 30 lakh chulhas have been installed in the country which have started giving substantial benefit to rural population. It is proposed to expand these activities. However, the pace of this expansion will depend upon the financial

allocation made available for this area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

#### Sick Industries in Bihar

2681. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of sick industries has increased in Bihar during the last few years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are collected by the Reserve Bank of India as per the definition of sickness adopted by it. According to the data available from PBI the number of sick units in the state of Bihar since December 1984 to June 1986 are as under.

Period ending	No. of Large sick	No. of Sick Units
December, 1984	14	5652
December, 1985	17	8570
June, 1986	16	9304

(b) A number of causes, both internal and external, such as mismanagement, diversion of funds, faulty planning at the initial stage, technological obsolescence, market recession, shortage of power and raw materials, industrial relations etc. are responsible for industrial sickness.

[English]

#### Allocation of Rapeseed Oil to West Bengal

2682. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of edible oil in

West Bengal is mainly due to decreased supply of rapeseed oil to West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to tide over the present difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The allocation of imported rapeseed oil to West Bengal has progressively been increased from June, 1987.