

**Upgradation of Branch Post Offices
and Sub Post Offices In Districts of
Bihar**

165. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) the names of branch post offices
and sub-post offices in Gopalganj, Sewan
and Chhapra districts of Bihar which are
likely to be upgraded;

(b) the time by which these would be
upgraded; and

(c) the number of new branch post
offices opened in Gopalganj district since
January, 1987 till date and the number of
such post offices proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
VASANT SATHE): (a) At present, there are
no sub or branch post offices in the 3 districts
which are eligible for upgradation according
to the prescribed criteria.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No new branch post offices have
been opened in Gopalganj since January,
1987. However, two post offices have been
sanctioned, one each at Bhathwa and Izra in
Gopalganj District.

Hike in Prices of Coal by Coal India Ltd.

166. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission
approved the proposal for recent hike in coal
prices;

(b) whether Government had sug-
gested in 1987 to the Coal India Limited to

make up its losses; and

(c) if so, the results of the steps taken by
the Coal India Ltd. and the amount of losses
which are yet to be made up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFER
SHARIEF): (a) While considering the ques-
tion of revision of coal prices, the Planning
Commission had also been consulted.

(b) and (c). In view of the fact that Coal
India Ltd. has to function in a regime of
administered prices, it was not the expecta-
tion of the Government that it would avoid
losses in 1987 having regard to the rising
trend in wages and other input costs. How-
ever, Coal India Ltd. is being encouraged to
reduce the cost of production by improving
the efficiency of operations by reducing
administrative expenses, by better utilisa-
tion of men and machinery and by introduc-
tion of better management practices and
technologies. The measures being taken in
this behalf are expected to improve the fi-
nancial performance of the coal companies
but it is difficult to quantify the effect in terms
of reduction in losses as these are also
affected by increase in wages and cost of
other inputs.

**Installation of Generators In Andhra
Pradesh**

168. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the
Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra
Pradesh have approached Union Govern-
ment for installation of generator to produce
power in the State in view of power shortage;

(b) if so, whether Union Government
have issued necessary approval in this re-
gard;

(c) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have also confirmed the availability of natural gas for installation of gas turbines; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if no decision has been taken the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (d). The following proposals in regard to gas-based power projects have been received in the Central Electricity Authority from the Andhra Pradesh authorities:-

- (i) Gas-based thermal power station (Combined Cycle) at Narsapur-Razole (3 x 33 MW) and
- (ii) Mobile gas turbine sets at Yenuguvani Lanka (3 x 33 MW).

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have informed the Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard to the availability of about 0.4 mcmd of gas, which would be made available by the end of 1989-90, for the proposed power plant at Narsapur-Razole. This project has since been techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority. The State authorities have to indicate the availability of land for the proposed power plant and confirm the implementation of timely and adequate flood protection measures as also compliance of the conditions stipulated by the State Pollution Control Board and the Department of Environment.

The proposed scheme in respect of installation of mobile gas turbine sets at Yenuguvani Lanka could be techno-economically appraised after the availability of all inputs, including gas and water, has been confirmed, site details have been settled and requisite clearances have been obtained.

Oil and Gas under the Bombay High Reserves

169. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil and gas has been discovered under the Bombay High reserves recently;

(b) the estimated quantity of the oil and gas discovered and the quality thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such a discovery would be helpful in bringing down the price of petroleum and its by-products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMDATT): (a) and (b). Oil has recently been discovered in the basement of Bombay High field (BH-36). During initial testing the well flowed oil at the rate 1000 barrels per day through 1/2" Choke. API gravity of oil is 38°.

(c) Although discovery has brightened the prospects of additional production from Bombay High, its exact potential and the overall impact would be known only after further exploration and assessment by drilling more locations.

Exploration by ONGC in the Bay of Bengal

170. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of success achieved so far and the estimated availability of oil and gas in respect of the exploration of oil and gas in the Bay of Bengal on the coast of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-