

opments and share experience in safety matter. Case histories of accidents that occurred in the industry are thoroughly discussed in these meetings to draw lessons so that similar accidents do not occur in future.

Training in fire and safety down to the field level is being intensified by all the organisations.

(b) Accidents lead to stoppage of production. Safety measures are meant to minimise the possibility of accidents, and to that extent help in achieving the target of production of oil and gas in the country.

#### **Electronic Telephone Exchange for Patna**

812. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the telephone subscribers in Patna; and

(b) if so, when the electronic telephone exchange will start functioning there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Electronic telephone exchange is expected to be commissioned at Patna by September '89.

#### **Gas-Based Power Projects**

813. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to establish more gas-based power projects;

(b) whether the cost of power generated by gas-based power stations is cheaper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to establish gas-based power projects in the country and particularly in power deficit States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI):

(a) to (d). The setting up of additional gas-based power projects, as a short-term option for meeting the power demands, will depend on the availability of gas for this purpose. The cost of production of electricity from gas-based stations is governed by various factors such as the type of plant, unit size, price and quality of fuel used, location of the power station in relation to the source of fuel supply, and operating hours in a year.

The following gas turbine units are expected to be commissioned during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan:—

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
1	2	3
(i)	Maithon Gas Turbine (Bihar) (3 x 30 MW)	90
(ii)	Rokhia Gas Turbine (Tripura) (2 x 5 MW)	10 (Order for two 8 MW units has been placed instead of 5 MW units)