

gramme has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent, it will be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the 7th Plan is already implementing a programme for village level integrated projects (Urjagrams) based on non-conventional energy sources such as biomass, biogas, solar energy, wind energy, etc. The Programme is basically aimed at achieving energy self-sufficiency at the village level. A survey of local energy resources and consumption patterns is first conducted on the basis of which the system configuraton is finalised. The project takes into account the energy requirements not only for basic minimum needs but also for agriculture, cottage industry and other community facilities.

It is proposed to continue and expand the programme in the next five year plan as well. For the 7th plan period, the original outlay was indicated as Rs. 50 lakhs but in view of the popularity of the programme the expenditure for the first 4 years is estimated to be Rs. 200 lakhs. For 1989-90, the outlay has been fixed at Rs. 25 lakhs. Over 900 energy surveys have so far been completed. Preference here is given to un-electrified areas and other remote and backward areas.

To start with, a target of establishing at least one Urjagram in every parliamentary constituency in the country has been envisaged. 85 Urjagram projects have already been completed and 146 further projects are in different stages of implementation. In addition, experimental/reference Urjagram projects have been taken up in 4 villages one each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Tamil Nadu with a view to carrying out

technical performance, evaluation studies and to provide opportunities for improvements/modifications in system designing and configuration.

(d) The programme of Urjagram is beneficial in meeting the energy needs of our village communities from their own locally available renewable resources. This is also beneficial from the point of view of improving the environment, saving forests, reducing the drudgery of women and improving the quality of life in villages quickly.

Blow out Accident in Bombay High

877. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a blow out accident on a Bombay High jack-up rig in January, 1989;

(b) if so, the details of casualties;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the cases of this accident;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the responsibility fixed;

(e) the steps taken to prevent such accidents in future and ensure safety; and

(f) the relief provided to the victims of the accident?

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

(b) Three persons lost their lives of which one was from ONGC. The other two were the employees of the contractor of the

charter hired rig SEDCO-252.

(c) to (e). In order to take appropriate action, ONGC have constituted a board to enquire into the causes that led to the blow out and fire in the well. The enquiry is not over.

(f) Apart from the compensation and the financial assistance paid according to the statutory obligations, and ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh was paid by ONGC to their employee. Besides, the wife of the deceased has been provided a job in ONGC suiting her qualifications. ONGC have no obligation for the two persons of the contractor. M/s. Sendco Forex have, however, initiated action for paying compensation according to the liability provided by them in the contract.

Setting up of Telecommunication Commission

878. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
SHRI H.B. PATIL:
SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Telecommunication Commission has been set up and the Telecommunication Board is proposed to be abolished; and

(b) if so, what are the additional advantages and improvements expected by the new set up?

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

(b) The proposed Telecommunication Commission will have part time Members from other concerned Ministries, in addition to a Chairman and four full time Members. With the Commission working as one consolidated body, it is expected that long term expansion projects and upgradation of telecom services would be carried out more expeditiously.

Participation in Twelfth International Film Festival

879. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which participated in the Twelfth International Film Festival of India;

(b) the number of films from each country exhibited in the Festival; and

(c) whether the response of the public to the Film Festival was very poor as compared to the Film Festival held at Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). As in the statement given below.

(c) The last Film Festival (Filmotsav) at Calcutta was held in January 1982. The average occupancy by the public in the theatres in all the festivals at Delhi and other places since 1982 has been as under: