

ducted with APPLE and this will include some limited experiments in the demonstration of the satellite capability for radio networking and TV networking.

Participation by foreign firms in Oil Exploration

376. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the foreign firms who had offered to take part in the exploration for oil in India have claimed a share of oil as a pre-condition for their participation;

(b) whether Government have agreed to their condition; and

(c) if not, in what way Government propose to go ahead with the task in a shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Every possible effort is being made to conclude the negotiations at an early date.

400 KV Line between Talcher and Kolaghat

377. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that laying of 400 KV lines between Talcher and Kolaghat is not progressing well;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Government propose to take over the task of laying inter State and inter-regional power lines in the country; and

(c) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard and when

the Centre would take up the Talcher-Kolaghat line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The 400 KV Transmission Line between Talcher and Kolaghat was originally scheduled for completion by March, 1985. The Talcher-Jeypore portion of the line is now expected to be completed by 1985-86 and the Jeypore-Kolaghat portion by 1986-87.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has been extending loans to the State Governments for construction of inter-State and inter-regional transmission lines in the country. The National Thermal Power Corporation and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, the two Central Government Undertakings, have also been constructing such lines on behalf of the State Governments. The Central Government is playing and proposes to play an increasing role in this field.

The present proposal is to construct the Talcher-Kolaghat Transmission line in the Central Sector.

Difficulties experienced by Indian language news agencies

378. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:

SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) nature and extent of financial and other difficulties being experienced by Indian language news agencies in India; and

(b) facilities and concessions and other help extended by the Government to each of them during the last one and a half years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). The basic problem of the language news