

2. In respect of off-shore, Oil India is expected to continue their exploratory programme in the Mahanadi Delta area. ONGC will continue exploration in Bombay Offshore Basin, extending the limits to deeper waters. They also propose to explore the structures offshore of Saurashtra in Gulf of Kutch, Andaman & Nicobar Shelf as well as the East Coast Basins, like Palk Bay and Krishna-Godavari Basins. ONGC plan to increase the number of off-shore rigs deployed so as to drill about 95 exploratory wells in different offshore areas during the Plan period.

3. Besides the full development of Bombay High Field, development of other structures, namely, R-12, South Bassein and North Bassein fields, B-37, B-39 structures, would also be carried out during the Plan period.

4. In order to supplement the efforts of ONGC and OIL, selected blocks are proposed to be leased out to reputed foreign oil companies on suitable terms. Oil exploration programme is formulated taking into account factors like geological assessment and priorities, logistics, structure delineation by geophysical surveys, preparation of site, inter-project rig movement schedule etc. as well as the available infrastructure and facilities in the regions and facilities. These reviews are a continuous process.

Rural Electrification in Orissa

1276. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages of Dhenkanal district in Orissa electrified so far under the Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) whether any recent survey has been conducted by the Rural Electrification Corporation to know about the number of villages of various districts of Orissa which have remained without electrification;

(c) if so, the total number of villages of Dhenkanal district in Orissa yet to be electrified;

(d) how many of them are proposed to be given electric connection during the Sixth Plan period; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) There are in all 2,606 inhabited villages in Dhenkanal district of Orissa as per 1971 census. According to the latest progress report received from the State Electricity Board, 1,227 villages constituting 43.2 per cent have been electrified in the district upto the end of May, 1981.

(b) No specific survey to find out unelectrified villages has been done by Rural Electrification Corporation. A Statement indicating the total number of villages, those electrified till the end of May, 1981 and the remaining villages to be electrified in various districts of Orissa is enclosed.

(c) 1,479 villages in the district of Dhenkanal remain to be electrified as at the end of May, 1981.

(d) According to latest information available 13,179 villages are proposed to be electrified for the entire State during the Sixth Plan period. Under the REC financed projects in Dhenkanal district in Orissa, 1089 villages are covered for electrification of which 511 have been electrified; the remaining 578 villages are expected to be electrified during the Sixth Plan period. In addition, some more villages are also expected to be electrified under the fresh schemes as may be sponsored by the Orissa State Electricity Board for financial assistance from the Corporation during the Sixth Plan and also under the State Plan.

(e) Since the commencement of Sixth Plan period viz. 1st April, 1980, 1,004 villages have been electrified in the State as a whole upto the end of May, 1981. Out of these, 64 villages were covered in Dhenkanal District.