

twice a week which is relayed by AIR Darbhanga and AIR Bhagalpur.

4. The Maithili programmes mentioned above do not include Vidya-pati Geet and Maithili folk songs, because, these are broadcast not only by Stations situated in Bihar but also from other AIR Stations of the country in their regional and folk music Channels.

Electric Meters in Saket, South Delhi

2580. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assistant Engineers' Office of D.E.S.U., Saket has received a large number of applications for change of electricity meters;

(b) if so, what was the number of such applications received by him during the month of November, 1981; and

(c) by what time he will replace the defective meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). DESU has reported that 167 applications for change of electricity meters were received in their office at Saket during the month of November, 1981. Out of these, 140 meters have already been replaced and the remaining 27 meters are expected to be replaced by middle of December, 1981.

Unsatisfactory telegraph service from and to Midnapore

2581. SHRI NARAYAN CHOU-BEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the channel of the telegraph office at Midnapore, West Bengal is not functioning properly for the last several months;

(b) is it a fact that telegrams to and from Midnapore, district head-quarter, are to pass through Kharagpur where peon bring telegrams from Midnapur by hand; and

(c) if so, the reasons and what steps Government propose to take to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No, Sir. However Teleprinter circuit between Midnapur and Calcutta is interrupted occasionally owing to power failure conditions at Midnapur.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. There is a direct teleprinter line between Midnapur and Calcutta. However, on some occasions telegrams had to be sent by-hand between Kharagpur and Midnapur owing to circuit interruptions.

Standby power supply arrangement is proposed to be provided at Midnapur Telegraph office.

Supply of Crude by Iraq

2582. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has offered to supply to India another 1.5 million tonnes of crude in addition to 3.5 million tonnes already contracted for 1982;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) what is the Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). An agreement has been concluded with Iraq for the supply of 3.5 million tonnes of crude oil in 1982. Indications have, however, been received that Iraq could supply 5 million tonnes of crude oil per

annum. It would not be in public interest to disclose further details at this stage.

Purchases made by DGSD

2583 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) is it true that the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGSD) is buying almost 60 per cent of its requirements of pumps and compressors etc., from suppliers locking the required manufacturing facilities and/or not possessing drawings or detailed specifications of the spares that they would be supplying;

(b) whether it is a fact that Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) units have drawn the attention of Government to the depressing state of affairs in DGSD; and

(c) if answers to (a) and (b) in the affirmative, what is the reaction of Government thereto and remedial measures being considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir, Air Compressors and Pumps are purchased by DGS & D from suppliers who are registered with this Department and from such firms who possess drawings and detailed specifications and are capable to manufacture and supply the stores in question.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

Shortage of explosives.

2584. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of explosives which has been hunting the coal industry for the last two years has further aggravated and there is no hope of improvement in the near future; and

(b) whether any study has been made in this regard and if so, the details regarding the findings of the group and the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):

(a) Coal production in 1980-81 and the current year has not been adversely affected by shortage of explosives. There is adequate availability of explosives to meet the demand of the coal sector.

(b) Although no such findings of a study group are under consideration, the position regarding availability of explosives to meet the demand of the coal industry is reviewed both by Coal India Limited and the Department of Coal from time to time and appropriate action taken to ensure adequate supply of explosives to the coal mines.

Women Judges of Women Offenders

2585. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the proposal of the Mahila Dakshata Samiti that all the offences where women are involved should be