

(b) if so, whether Senior Executives had left Oil India Headquarters at Juliajan and about 109 engineers holding important positions had also left the organisation during 1981 and some more engineers are also on the verge of leaving;

(c) what are the main reasons for this exodus of engineers and whether this has greatly affected the oil prospects in Assam; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to solve this problem?

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

(b) The number of engineers and technically qualified personnel who left Oil India Limited during 1981 was 38 and during 1982 (upto 31-1-1982) was only 6.

(c) The main reason for the exodus is that jobs abroad are more lucrative. This exodus has not affected the oil prospects in Assam.

(d) While it is not possible to prevent those who want to resign, steps have been taken to fill in these vacancies through promotion, by direct recruitment including taking in graduate engineer trainees and deputationists from other organisations.

#### **New telecommunication links with Pakistan**

1509. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will shortly have new telecommunication links with Pakistan and some other neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, what are the countries with which India will have telecommunication links;

(c) whether the telecommunication links between India and Pakistan and also with Lanka have already started; and

(d) if so, the main features of the same?

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

(b) to (d). Small capacity telecommunication links from India to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka already exist. Subsequently, large capacity microwave/coaxial link to each of these countries was planned. Wide band microwave link between Rameswaram in India and Colombo in Sri Lanka has been commissioned. Project for a wide bank coaxial cable system between Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan has been taken in hand but the system is not ready yet.

#### **DESU continues to draw heavily from Northern grid**

1510. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of repeated warnings from the BBMB and Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, DESU continues to draw heavily from the Northern grid;

(b) whether during the month of January DESU was warned by the Northern States to stop overdrawing power;

(c) whether the Centre has been seized of the issue following repeated complaints to the ministry by the Northern States;

(d) whether the Ministry had advised DESU not to depend on the Northern States but the instructions were violated by the DESU; and