

(b) The proposed post office is expected to yield income to the extent of atleast 10 per cent of its estimated cost.

(ii) Post Offices in non gram-panchayat villages may be opened subject to the following conditions:—

(a) The village (or an integrated cluster of villages within a radius of 1.5 Kms.) should have a population of 1,000 or more;

(b) There should not be another post office within the radius of 3 Kms. from the proposed post office; and

(c) The proposed post office is expected to yield income to the extent of atleast 10 per cent of its estimated cost.

#### B. Norms for opening of Post Offices in urban areas.

Post Offices in urban areas may be opened subject to the following conditions:—

(i) The post office should be self-supporting.

(ii) The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1 kilometre in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above. In other urban areas, the minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kilometers.

(iii) PMG can relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases every year.

(iv) EDBO's can be opened in urban areas only in exceptional cases like slum areas where suitable departmental buildings on reasonable rent are not available. So far as the opening of EDSO's in urban areas is concerned, this will continue to be governed by this office order issued under U.O. No. 1-12/78-PRP dated 19-3-1979.

#### Engineering Posts in D.V.C. Comparable with similar Posts in Public Sector

4857. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many senior Engineering posts are there in the Electricity Department with basic pay of Rs. 2000 and above per month in the DVC and how the same compares with similar or near similar public sector organisations;

(b) how many graduate engineers DVC has employed in the rank of Assistant Engineer and above and what is the annual establishment cost of the same as per latest position; and

(c) whether there is any functional difference between the Electricity Department of the DVC and other public sector power supply organisations (without retail distribution) and how they compare from organisational point of view in all respects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM-MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). Total number of senior engineering posts in Electricity Department of DVC with basic pay of Rs 2000 and above per month, is 11. Total number of graduate engineers of and above the rank of Asstt. Engineer is 526. Annual establishment cost for them is estimated as Rs. 1.85 crores.

DVC, set up in 1948 under an Act of Parliament, is a unique multipurpose organisation with the joint participation of the Central Government and the States of Bihar and West Bengal. Functionally, there is no basic and fundamental difference between the Electricity Department of DVC and that of similar public utilities.

#### Engineering Posts created after assumption of Office by present chairman by D.V.C.

4858. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many senior Engineering Posts in the Electricity Department of the

DVC have been created after the present Chairman of the DVC took over that position;

(b) what were the functional difficulties experienced for not creating those posts and what is annual financial complication for such creation; and

(c) how the organisational pattern from technical angle of the thermal power stations of the DVC compared with similar or near similar power stations of other power supply organisations under the public sector and if there be any difference in the pattern, what those are?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The total number of senior engineering posts created/upgraded in the scales of Rs. 2100—2500 and above in the Electricity Department of DVC since joining of present Chairman is 10 (ten) with corresponding abolition of posts in the lower grades.

(b) The creation/upgradation of the above posts was considered essential by management in the interests of more effective operation and maintenance of the thermal units and commissioning of new units. This has also helped the opening of new Divisions for transmission and distribution system. Additional financial implication for these posts is estimated at Rs. 42,000 per annum.

(c) DVC set up in 1948 under an Act of Parliament is a unique multi-purpose organisation with the joint participation of the Central Government and the States of Bihar and West Bengal. Functionally, there is no basic and fundamental difference between Electricity Department of DVC and that of similar public utilities.

#### Holding up of Drilling works due to Non-Availability of Drilling Rigs

4859. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to the exploration of oil and

drilling in the Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal region has been held up because drilling rigs are not available;

(b) if so, the names of other regions where work has been hampered because of the non-availability of drilling rigs;

(c) whether Government have assessed the requirement of such drilling rigs for their future programme and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps, both short term and long term, are being taken to acquire them and how many of them have been produced in the country and by what time work on the aforesaid regions will start?

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

(b) Drilling work has not been hampered at any place on land due to non-availability of drilling rigs. Regarding offshore, the rig position is rather tight in the international market. Therefore, drilling activities in offshore could get affected to some extent.

(c) and (d). In onshore, ONGC need 4 Replacement rigs and 5 additional rigs during the Sixth Plan period. For onshore operations the drilling rigs are being purchased from M/s. BHEL and advance action are taken to meet the requirements. ONGC have placed letter of intent for 7 nos. of drilling rigs with BHEL. Earlier to this letter of intent, 6 nos. of rigs have been supplied by M/s. BHEL.

For offshore drilling operations the rigs are either being purchased or taken on charter hire from agencies outside India as they are not being manufactured within the country.

OIL would need one additional rig and one Replacement rig during the Plan period for its operation in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The drilling effort of the Company needed for operation in all other areas will be organised and provided on hire basis through contractors.

Drilling will be undertaken when the surveys indicate favourable locations.