

Sarin Committee Report

9807. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarin Committee which was appointed to suggest methods to improve the Telecommunications has recommended that a DTO should be opened at places where daily average Telegrams comes to 300 or more; and

(b) what are the reasons for not implementing the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes madam. The Committee on Telecommunications has recommended that Combined Offices should be converted into DTOs at 300 messages instead of the existing standard of 500 messages.

(b) This recommendation has some implications regarding status of combined offices and absorption of postal signallers into Telecom. branch. These problems are being sorted out before decision is implemented.

Clearance of two major coking coal projects by Government

9808. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two major coking coal projects are pending clearance with his Ministry for the last ten months or so; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). Five major coking coal project are under consideration

of the Ministry for clearance. Of these three are revised cost estimates of running mines and two are new proposals.

All these major project proposals involve introduction of advanced technology, hence some time was taken in the appraisal of these proposals by different appraising agencies.

After detailed scrutiny by various appraising agencies now all these proposals have been cleared at the Interministerial level and are being submitted for Public Investment Board's approval.

New Sites for Drilling for Oil/Gas

9809. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new sites have earmarked to be drilled for oil and gas during 1982-83 in the country;

(b) the States where these sites are located; and

(c) the nature of progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) ONGC proposes to drill at 186 locations and OIL at 31 locations both in new and old structures during the year 1982-83.

(b) These sites are located in the States of Assam, Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and the offshore areas off the East and West coast.

(c) The year has just started. ONGC has drilled about 15,000 metres on different sites. OIL is presently drilling 3 wells in Assam and one well in Arunachal Pradesh.