

**T.V. Facility in Rajasthan**

9725. SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what T.V. facility Government have provided to the tribal areas in the country particularly in Rajasthan State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and when this T.V. facility would be provided to the tribal areas in the country and particularly in Rajasthan State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) At the beginning of sixth Plan T.V. service was available to 48103 villages covering a population for 482 lakhs in the country. At present the rural population covered has gone up to about 683 lakhs in 53,884 villages of the country. After completion of Sixth Plan schemes T.V. services are expected to become available to an estimated rural population of 1465 lakhs spread over about 1,40,000 villages which includes tribal areas also. After completion of the Sixth Plan projects, 24 tribal districts will be covered.

As regards Rajasthan, T. V. service is not available to the tribal areas in Rajasthan at present from the T.V. Relay Centre, Jaipur and the low-power T.V. transmitter, Suratgarh; However, parts of the tribal districts of Chittorgarh in the State of Rajasthan are expected to get service from a 10 KW T.V. transmitter at Kota which has been identified as one of the places for setting up T.V. Relay Centre, along the P and T Department's microwave route, under a Perspective Plan. Setting up of a T.V. Relay Centre at Kota, would, however, depend on the availability of resources in future plans.

**Effect of fall in oil prices**

9726. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the effect of falling oil prices in the world market on the Oil and Natural Gas Commissions massive plan to double crude production by 1990;

(b) what effect it will have on Offshore drilling programme which is costlier than the onshore drilling;

(c) is it a fact that India's second attempt in three years to attract foreign explorers to its offshore shelf has fallen flat; and

(d) if so, what is the revised programme before Government in view of the falling oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No effect is foreseen on the existing plan of work of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, as the country is yet to become self-sufficient in the production of crude oil.

During a recessionary market situation, it is advantageous to continue exploratory activities in prospective onshore and offshore areas, as equipment and expert specialist services as may be required become available more readily and also at lower rates.

(c) and (d) Government has already awarded the Saurashtra Offshore Block-II to M/s. Chevron in the first round of bidding. Bids in the second round have been received very recently and are under evaluation.

**Views of press council on the report of second press commission**

9727. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:  
SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the views of the Press Council on the report of the Second Press Commission;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the Press Council are under active consideration of Government for its implementation; and

(d) if so, by what time these are likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The views of the Press Council on the recommendations relating to the "Role of the Press Council" contained in the Second Press Commission's Report have been received and the details thereof are contained in the statement laid on the table of the House. [Placed in library, See No. LT 6556/83]

(c) and (d) The views of the Council have been taken into account while examining the relevant recommendations, but no final decision has yet been taken.

**News-Item Captioned "Minister Too Pays Inflated Telephone Bill"**

9728. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated 11th April, 1983 under the caption "Minister too pays inflated telephone bill"; and

(b) if so, total number of such complaints received in the year 1982 and so far in 1983 from subscribers by the authorities of Delhi Telephones, Calcutta Telephones and action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total number of complaints of excess billing received in the year 1982 and 1983 from the subscribers of Delhi and Calcutta, Telephones is as indicated below:

	1882	1983
Calcutta Telephones	9837	1360 (Upto March, 83)
Delhi Telephones	13102	2888 (Upto March, 83)

Every complaint received is investigated in detail to examine whether there was any arithmetical inaccuracy in the bill issued or fault in the equipment or line or the system. The previous and subsequent calling pattern of the subscriber is also taken into consideration. In the case of arithmetical in-accuracies, revised bills are issued. In other cases, rebates wherever justified are allowed.

**Decline in Performance of Thermal Unit at Kothagudam**

9729. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decline in the performance of the thermal units of Kothagudam;

(b) whether renovation work has been carried in this thermal station; and

(c) whether this work is complete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a): No, Sir, On the contrary, as will be seen from the following Table, there was marginal improvement in the performance of Kothagudam thermal power station during 1982-83 compared to 1981-82 as indicated below: