

*[English]***Vacant Posts**

1784. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of superintendents lying vacant in the country;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Nil, Sir, as all the posts are filled by officials on regular basis or by *ad-hoc* promotion.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) The posts manned by *ad-hoc* promotions are periodically filled by officials on regular promotions through prescribed procedure including Departmental Promotion Committees.

ONGC Reserves Identified in Bilaspur, U.P.

1785. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas reserves have been identified in the birkhera village of Bilaspur Tehsil of Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh under Ganga Valley Project of Oil India; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost to be incurred on its exploration etc. and the quantum of Oil and Natural Gas expected to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The first well being drilled by Oil India Limited in the area near Birkhera village is likely to be completed by April-May, 1999. Preliminary indications regarding presence of hydrocarbons in the area have been obtained. However, the quantum of hydrocarbons present in the area can be estimated only on completion of production testing of the different prospective layers. The estimated cost of the exploratory well is around Rs. 20.00 crores.

District Level Telecom Offices, Raigarh

1786. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district level offices of telecom circle are functioning in each district of the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any time bound programme has been prepared to open such offices in all the districts of the State especially in Raigarh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) to (b) Department of Telecom has created 324 Telecom Districts in the country as per list enclosed as the statement Telecom Districts are generally co-terminus with one or more Revenue districts.

(c) to (e) As per policy of the Department, Telecom Districts are not bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons. Depending on the workload, each Telecom district is headed by Telecom District Engineer/ Telecom District Manager/General Manager/Principal General Manager. Raigarh is an independent Telecom District headed by General Manager.