

or Cr PC compelling the persons who are being selected by the Government that they have to accept the offer made by the Government.

SHRI A.K. SEN : There is no such provision and I would not like to be defended by any counsel who will have to be forced into the job.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister consider that just like selecting public prosecutors in the States the names of panels may be recommended by some authority.

SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ : We have submitted already that we take into confidence the judges and other people who are concerned with the knowledge of the counsels and no authority can be prescribed for judging the standard of the bar.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, about the appointment of standing counsels and panel of standing counsels I would like to know whether the hon. Minister in his Ministry is having any review over the functioning, particularly how many decrees or how many cases against Central Government we have lost.

I am constrained to put forth that the provision of excise duty over the matches announced in the recent budget was contested in the Madras High Court and an injunction has been granted. A similar injunction was also granted in 1983 for the same provision. As a result of it we are incurring huge losses. In these two occasions the Standing Counsel never uttered even a single word against granting injunctions. So, I would like to know whether the Ministry has made any review over the functioning of the panel of standing counsels.

SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ : These are two completely diverse questions. We were discussing about the appointment of standing counsels and panel counsels. With regard to the arrears of revenue cases and other pendency we will require a separate notice. But we have got a complete control over the counsels who appear in the cases and when the counsels appear and the court judgements are received they

are processed in the Ministry and whenever there is any defect or error we go in for appeal. There is no question of a counsel being held responsible for losing a case. It is the judgement of the court.

Oil Exploration in India by Soviet Union

*654. **SHRI RAM PRAKASH :**
SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to give an on-shore/off-shore area for oil exploration to Soviet Union ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). In accordance with the Indo-Soviet Protocol signed in March, 1985 in New Delhi, the Soviet Organisations would be given an area in an identified basin to conduct intensive integrated exploration.

Decisions regarding the area, work programme and time-frame are still to be taken.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want to know from the Minister whether seismic survey was conducted by Soviet Union in 1977-78 in the oilfields of our country and they have delineated the zone of Hydrocarbons and we are going to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency in the field of production of crude oil. I also want to know whether the Minister has taken up with the Soviet Union and signed contracts for production oriented exploratory drilling and what is the outcome of this before 1985. Secondly, Sir, the Minister has told us that in 1985 the protocol was signed with the Soviet Union for exploration of oil. The Soviet Union is the sole pioneer of finding Hydro-carbon areas in our country. May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact whether they have signed the protocol for exploration and seismic survey or production-oriented exploratory drilling.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that cooperation in the field of

oil exploration dates back to 1956 when ONGC started extensive surveys for oil on the basis of the recommendations made by Soviet geologists. Under the present agreement which has been arrived at with the Soviet Deputy Minister who visited India in the last week of March, 1985, this question of enlarging the scope of cooperation between India and USSR was discussed. The two sides agreed to a new approach for having intensive and integrated exploration which could lead to early development of hydro carbons in certain defined areas in some basins. Under this approach the Soviet Organisations would conduct exploratory operations like geo-physical surveys, data processing and interpretation, exploratory drilling and in case of discovery drilling of step-out wells, to establish the potential of the field. The responsibility for production from the field would be that of the ONGC. With regard to the cooperation which has been there, there are many areas in which this cooperation is operating. If you permit me, I can read this list, but it is a long list.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, before 1985, was there any contractual obligation of the Government of India with the Soviet Union for production-oriented exploratory drilling? In 1977-78, they have delineated the zone of formation of hydro-carbons and old formations. Both off-shore and on-shore, which will lead to our goal of attaining self-sufficiency. I want to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact as to how many contracts have been signed for production oriented exploratory drilling with the Soviet Union before 1985.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : There was no contract as such and there was no promise of self-sufficiency made by the Soviet Union.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Sir, since the hon. Minister has stated that there is a long list of areas identified for exploration programme, I do not want to insist on him to spell out the whole areas. I would only like to know from him whether the West Bengal State is also included in the list for exploration programme by the Soviet experts in the Bay of Bengal basin. I would also like to know from

him whether the Soviets have already started their operation in the area.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The Soviets are carrying out many activities in West Bengal. One such activity has already been undertaken. One Soviet contract party is engaged in carrying out specific survey in Ranaghat, Jaboli and Krishna Nagar areas in West Bengal. The party has already started survey work on 9.5.1983. Another Indo-Soviet party is engaged in carrying out seismic survey in Diamond Harbour in West Bengal. So, the party already started the work on 14.12.1982. These Soviet interpretation groups are stationed in Calcutta. These groups are engaged in re-interpretation of the data pertaining to the areas. This is with regard to West Bengal.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : What about Orissa ? The hon. Minister may lay the list of areas on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will ask him to lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, about five years ago, there was an intensive survey of the Saurashtra High. There has been a lull since then. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any protocol signed for taking up survey work in Saurashtra area.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : With regard to the Saurashtra area, the area to be given to the Soviets for survey work is still under the stage of discussion and nothing is known as to what area will be given to them.

[*Translation*]

S.T.D. Service between Delhi and
Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh)

*655. **SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of S.T.D. service with Delhi foreign tourist parties visiting Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), which