

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

is a famous Tourist Centre, have to face great inconvenience as the information about their arrival there is not received in time;

(b) whether attention of Union Government has been drawn through repeated written requests on behalf of the local tourist agencies, hotels and the district administration for providing this facility; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The trunk calls between Khajuraho and Delhi are subject to delay. Khajuraho is a manual exchange and there is no proposal for a STD service between Delhi and Khajuraho.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present the trunk calls are routed via Chhatarpur, Satna and Jabalpur, a distance of about 450 Kms, all on open wire. Between Jabalpur and Delhi there is a microwave system. To improve the trunk services between New Delhi and Khajuraho, a direct manual circuit will be provided between New Delhi and Chhatarpur, wherein the section from Delhi to Sagar will be on Microwave medium and only about 100 Kms. portion of the circuit will be on open wire. The transit point will also be reduced only to one at Chhatarpur. This re-engineering is expected to be carried out by March end 1986.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Through you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the World famous tourist centre Khajuraho, which is visited by foreign and Indian tourists in thousands in big groups. What happens is that these tourists reach there but the local tourist agencies do not get information to this effect in time, as a result of which, the tourists are put to inconvenience. Se-

condly, sometimes such situations also arose where the foreign guests reached there, but our officers could not reach there as they did not get information about them in time. As the hon. Minister has just now told us they propose to set up a microwave line from Delhi to Sagar, and from Sagar to Chhatarpur and the circuit, will be on open wire, I want to know from the hon. Minister when the proposal for a microwave line, from Sagar to Chhatarpur was made and whether your proposal now to keep an open line up to Sagar will not create inconvenience ?

I want to tell you that if you want to link Chhatarpur, you will not be able to connect Chhatarpur with Delhi through this microwave line, because a lot of difficulty is experienced between Chhatarpur and Sagar. This circuit extends from Sagar to Chhatarpur and from there up to Khajuraho and sometimes it so happens that the information does not reach in time as a result of which our big tourist parties and other big people are put to inconvenience.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is a fact that Khajuraho is a World famous tourist spot and it has its own cultural importance, keeping these things in view, the scheme to introduce telephone service between Delhi and Chhatarpur and the suggestion which I have just given and which we intend to implement by March, 1986, will remove the present inconvenience to a great extent. I think, if we deviate from our present programme, it will result in delay in this work and the work which we have now taken up will be able to largely meet the demand of the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just now asked in my question that initially the proposal was to provide microwave line upto Sagar and Chhatarpur and a cut has been effected for the line between Sagar and Chhatarpur for which you have proposed to lay an open line. I want to know the reasons for that ? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a Member of Parliament since 1966. No telephone trunk call for Chhatarpur has materialized till today without the intervention of a Minister. Can the link which you have provided for

trunk calls from Jabalpur, Sagar or Satna not be changed into a direct link between Delhi and Chhatarpur for the convenience of the public ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, it is true that at present trunk service between Delhi and Chhatarpur or Delhi and Khajuraho is not that efficient. Even urgent calls take four hours to materialize, what to speak of the ordinary calls. I do not know, how much times they take.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Sir, even the lightning calls do not materialize for as many as 2 days.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I have myself admitted that the service are not satisfactory, but I can assure you that the arrangements made by us and which we are implementing will result in the service to a great extent.

[English]

SHRI C.P. THAKUR : I would like to know whether there is a proposal to link places of international tourist importance with the STD system. There are three places in Bihar—Nalanda, Gaya and Rajgir, which are to be connected with STD. I feel that it should be a national policy.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is certainly our endeavour to connect places which are interationally known, from the tourists' point of view or otherwise and this is exactly what we are doing in case of Khajuraho, which is otherwise a very small and isolated place. But for the tourist interest, we would not have directed all our attention to it. And the scheme applies to Nalanda and other places which he mentioned.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI : As stated by the Minister that the tourist centres are to be connected with the STD. Then I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of auto-exchanges for the district headquarters first. They also have to be connected with this STD service at least in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Before we connect all district headquarters with STD, they should at least have the automatic exchanges. I can confess that not many of them have even automatic exchanges as of to-day. Our 7th Plan envisages that we will gradually put all the district headquarters with automatic exchanges, after which as and when the traffic warrants, STD would be provided.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know, Madhya Pradesh is the largest State of India. The means of communications are in a very bad shape in this State. No P.C.Os have been installed at the tourist centres of the State, like Khajuraho. There are many cities, like Ratlam where automatic telephone exchanges should be installed. I want to know the number of cities in which you are going to provide automatic exchanges and the number of cities which are proposed to be linked through S.T.D. or microwave during the Seventh Plan.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, this is a very important question. If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall certainly reply to that.

[English]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that a few new microwave link projects are being delayed due to the defective equipments supplied by the Indian Telephone Industries, e.g. Vidhisha-Bhopal and Indore-Dewas microwave link projects are known to me. They are delayed due to the defective equipments supplied by the Indian Telephone Industries. I would like to know what effective steps are being taken to commission these delayed projects immediately.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that the supplies from Indian Telephone Industries with respect to certain types of equipment are getting delayed. I would not say that these projects have been delayed because of defective microwave instruments supplied by Indian Telephone Industries. But there is a lag in the supply,

and some targets have not been able to be achieved. We are trying to improve the working of the ITI with respect to this, viz. to see that timely supply of equipment is made. I am sure that with our new thrust in this direction, these projects will be completed soon.

University Recruiting Centres for Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers

*656. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal for setting up recruiting centres for officers and non-commissioned officers in each University providing priority to successful cadets of National Cadet Corps;

(b) if so, the time by which such centres will be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SJIRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

The Officer cadre to the Armed Forces is recruited through the Examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission and screening by the Services Selection Boards. Since the Indian Army is a voluntary force, no compulsory quota has been fixed in recruitment for any category of class or people. For the National Cadet Corps 'C' Certificate holders who qualify in the Union Public Service Commission Examination and the Services Selection Boards, 32 seats per Course (out of the total seats of 150) in the Indian Military Academy, 6 seats in the Naval Academy and 10 per cent of vacancies in the Air Force Academy have been earmarked. Till January 1985, all the National Cadet Corps 'C' Certificate holders who qualified in the Union Public Service Commission examination and the Services Selection Boards have been absorbed in the Indian Military Academy. Indeed, vacancies earmarked for them have

remained unfilled. The number of seats earmarked for them is, therefore, adequate.

2. There is no direct recruitment to the Junior Commissioned Officers cadre. Recruitment is made to the Other Ranks through the 68 Recruiting Offices functioning throughout the country. In this recruitment, the following weightage is given to National Cadet Corps certificate holders :—

(a) NCC 'A' Certificate holders ...
5 marks.

(b) NCC 'B' Certificate holders ...
10 marks.

(c) NCC 'C' Certificate holders ...
15 marks.

3. The minimum qualifications are Matric for the matric-entry stream and fifth standard for the normal entry stream.

4. In view of adequate facilities being available for the successful cadets of the National Cadet Corps, it is not considered necessary to set up recruiting centres for Officers and other ranks in universities.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : In the statement, the hon. Minister has stated that there are 68 recruiting centres for the Army, and specially the officers, i.e. the commissioned officers go through the Union Public Service Commission, and the Services Selection Board. The National Cadet Corps's concept was a little bit diluted after the Mahajan Commission's report; nevertheless, it is still providing the strength and inspiration to a number of young men in various Universities. The University Recruiting Centres are there for the commissioned officers, i.e. for directly screening them, specially for 'C' Certificate-holders. As the Minister is aware, Certificate 'C' examination is a very tough examination in the examination days, and all the heavy equipments are handled by the cadets—just as for the Services Selection Board. So, regarding the youngsters who obtain Certificate 'C', I find from the statement that only 32 out of the 150 get into the Indian Military Academy. Will the Minister consider, therefore, increasing the strength of Certificate 'C' holders for direct entry into the Indian Military Academy, and provi-