

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Which places of Barmer district have been selected for this integrated network which will be linked with the automatic system through modern electronic system. Has Gadh tehsil also been included in it ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, apart from Barmer city, Byatu, Siwana, Panchpadra, Dorimamma and Choreum have also been included in it. As I said earlier, all these tehsils or cities will be inter-linked through the automatic system.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is the total number of country Districts in the country in which the electronic telephone system will be installed during the Seventh Five Year Plan and what is the total number of Districts to be covered in Andhra Pradesh ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I need notice.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : This is about the Seventh Plan.

MR. SPEAKER : He will write to you.

SHRI LAL DUHOMA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister. In Mizoram there is the problem of communication of all kinds. We have only one exchange which is a 700 line capacity telephone exchange. In view of the backwardness of the area will the hon. Minister consider favourably introduction of this electronic telephone system in Mizoram also ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This is a very special experimental scheme and the area we have selected or on the basis of their geographical situation. We wanted to have one area in the north - east which means Kohima, another desert area, i. e. Barmer and then in Nainital and Mathura which are hills and plains. Both the districts have got a speciality. But there are various other schemes which, if the hon. member wants to know, I can say on another occasion, after due notice as to what we have been doing and what we propose to do for Mizoram and for the North - east.

But I can straightaway admit that development of proper communications including tele - communications in the North - east is a very important item. We are giving it very great importance. We are using the latest technology of satellite communication for connecting these places among themselves and with the rest of the country. The needs and requirements of tele - communication of North East will be given due consideration.

Assistance by USSR in Oil Exploration

*210. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Soviet Union will help and assist in oil exploration projects in the Cauvery and Cambay basins ;

(b) what will be the approximate expenditure involved in the project and what will be India's contribution ; and

(c) the time by which the accord is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The scope of work includes preparation of a detailed feasibility report, execution of geophysical surveys, processing and interpretation of data arising out of such surveys, drilling an adequate number of wells and analysing the data therefrom, estimation of reserves and preparation of technological schemes of development and design of surface installations etc.

(b) The expenditure on the project will be known after the Feasibility Report is received. Soviet credit is expected to cover seventy per cent of the cost.

(c) The project would end on the completion of the scope of work or by the end of 1995 whichever is earlier unless an extension is mutually agreed upon.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the work on the preparation of the feasibility

report has already been started? If so, when and the time expected for its completion. I would also like to know whether this subject was one of the items of discussion when our hon. Prime Minister visited USSR. If so, what is the attitude and the views of the USSR government on this issue?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that during the visit of the Prime Minister to USSR in May, 1985 an agreement was signed between the two countries according to which the Soviet Union was to carry out intensive integrated exploration for oil and gas in mutually agreed areas in Cambay and Cauvery on turn-key basis. The actual delineation and the feasibility report is under process. The Soviet team has visited India and they had mutual discussion with regard to the work to be done with the ONGC and the report is expected by the end of this year.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The hon. Minister in part (b) of the reply has said that the Soviet credit would cover 70 per cent of the cost. May I know what is the approximate total expenditure to be incurred on this project and what are the terms and conditions of repayment of Soviet credit?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The total amount which the Soviets have allocated is Roubles 350 million which is payable at the rate of 2.5% annual interest.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : The Soviet Union is expected to carry on with the survey operations and also drilling of exploratory works besides preparation of feasibility report. These are the very things for which ONGC has enough experience and capacity to undertake this work. In that case how Government felt necessary to use the services of Soviet Union instead of entrusting this work to the ONGC?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, it is true that ONGC has a lot of experience for exploration and drilling but in view of the fact that our consumption of petroleum products is going up. . . . and in view of the constraint of resources, as a measure of mutually agreed terms, under the joint Commission we have decided to offer

two areas. Otherwise, other than these areas, we are also receiving Soviet assistance in many forms in the oil exploration programme and it is in the interest of the country that we have agreed to do this.

SHRI SINGARAVADIVEL : Sir, sometime back, the hon. Minister made a statement that gas was struck in Narimanam Village in Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, in the cauvery basin. I have learnt that the gas available here is in abundance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the progress made so far and what steps has been taken by the Government to exploit gas for commercial purposes.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The question requires notice. But I would only assure the hon. Member that we have not abandoned the area and commercial exploitation is yet to take place we are looking into the area and we are at it.

Prices of Vital Drugs

*211. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that vital drugs i. e. ampicillin gentamycin, analgin etc. are over-priced by 75 to 300 per cent by the manufacturing companies ;

(b) if so, the reasons for over-pricing ;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to bring down the prices of vital drugs ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The maximum sale prices of Ampicillin Trihydrate, Gentamycin and Analgin have been fixed under the Drugs