

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil India Limited.

(c) and (d). During 1986-87, six exploratory wells (12000 metres) are expected to be drilled at a cost of about Rs 7 crores.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Sir I welcome the reply of the hon. Minister. At the same time I would like to ask the Minister what are the different districts in Orissa where survey had been undertaken and whether it is a fact that more number of wells should be drilled other than the six given in the reply and is so, whether provision of funds will be made for exploration and drilling of additional wells.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, with regard to Orissa, in the annual programme for 1986-87, six wells are to be drilled in this area and 12,000 metres of drilling would be there. A plan provision for Rs. 7.1 crores has been made for the year for the purpose.

With regard to the projection in the Seventh Five Year Plan, a total number of 9 exploratory wells are expected to be drilled in on-shore Orissa. During the Seventh Plan with the estimated meterage of 18,000, the estimated cost of the programme is Rs. 9.50 crores.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : My Second Supplementary is whether it is a fact that a three-Member World Bank Team which visited Orissa in the first week of December 1985 has favoured expanding the systems for the north-east coast and particularly for Orissa coast off-shore oil exploration project. If so, what is the amount of World Bank assistance estimated to be obtained for implementing those projects and the details thereof ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : No specific proposals are under consideration.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the sources that are going to finance for these projects and what the Government is

contemplating to meet this amount of Rs. 7 crores.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The source is the plan allocation and our internal resources which we generate.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, Midnapore District is nearer to Orissa. That is why I am asking a question. There is a newspaper report that...*(Interruptions)* ... the largest oil field in Asia as stated by Comrade Amal Datta, has been found in the Dhatan area of Midnapore District of West Bengal. We have written a letter to the hon. Minister also. In view of this, may I know from the Minister whether Government propose to arrange a drilling there for the exploration of oil in Midnapore District ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, though the question does not relate to Midnapore but since this matter is raised in the House, I would say that unfortunately the Press reports are not true. I wish that it would have been true.

But so far as the suggestion of drilling in Midnapore is concerned, this is a suggestion for action.

Telephones Installed on Fake Letters

*414. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Phones installed on fake letters' appearing in "The Hindustan Times" of 25 October, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of the cases and the modus operandi thereof;

(c) the number of cases of such installation and extension, etc. detected so far by the Department and in which areas in the city;

(d) whether any such cases have been detected in other parts of the country, if so, how many, when and where;

(e) the effective steps taken to avoid recurrence of such cases; and

(f) the action taken against the delinquent officials and in how many cases so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On a check made by the Department of Telecommunications, it has come to light that some telephone connections were installed or extended on the basis of alleged irregular sanctions received in offices of Delhi Telephones.

(c) 32 such cases have been detected so far and they relate to area falling under Area Manager (East).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Arrangements have been made to cross check the sanctions issued in such cases by feed back information from the field Units.

(f) Case has been registered with C.B.I. Delhi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there seems to be no need now to wait for a telephone connection as reported in the newspaper, because telephone connections can be had by producing fake letters—a fact which has been admitted by the hon. Minister. Please tell me when this fact came to the notice of your Department that telephone have been installed on fake signatures; when an enquiry into this fraud was ordered and who were the persons, high ups, who not only got temporary telephone connections on fake letters but also got extensions ? You please give the names of these persons. May I know why you have not taken any action against them so far ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This case was detected a few months back; it is not an old case and this was detected because of the vigilance our Department. As soon as it came to the notice of Delhi Telephones...

MR. SPEAKER : You have dashed the hopes of Shri Daga to the ground.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : When it came to the notice of Delhi Telephones that more letters were being received for cut-of-turn allocation of telephone in the Delhi Exchanges, they made inquiries and asked the Director about the number of names forwarded by him in his list. When the lists were compared it was found that the concerned order was not issued by him. Thereafter, the matter was investigated and 20 cases were detected initially and latter on 12 more cases were detected. All the cases have been handed over to the C.B.I.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : How Shri Daga came to know about it ?

MR. SPEAKER : This will also be inquired into.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Who were the persons involved in it ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The names of the persons involved would be known only after the C.B.I. inquiry is completed.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know the date on which it came to the notice of Department; it appeared in the newspaper on the 24th October. You tell me whether your Department was vigilant before that date or not. What date was it and whether you got those connections disconnected or not ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Our Department had detected it before it appeared in the press.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When ? You give the date. You are not giving the date.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : These cases had been detected before you read it in the newspaper. The action had been initiated before it appeared in the newspaper.

MR. SPEAKER : Also send him the date. He will send it to you.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Tell me whether the connections so provided have been disconnected or not ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Telephone connections of the above-mentioned 32 persons were disconnected immediately and a letter was issued to them asking them how did they manage to get the connection and when did they apply for a telephone connection. Some of them did not turn up at all to explain how all this happened. Who are the people having links with the departmental officials would be known only from the C.B.I. inquiry.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : What are their names ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Names would be known after the inquiry.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I was astonished to learn from the newspapers that on MPs forged letters, these priorities for telephone connection have been given. In my case, I find that even on my genuine letters, no priorities are given. I was astounded and I feel that probably the Telephone Department is not following a uniform policy everywhere. Whereas in Delhi, such priorities are in vogue, in Calcutta no such priorities are given. This is my only experience. Will the Minister kindly clarify ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The hon. Members write a number of letters for giving out of turn allocation and we respectfully try to accommodate them as far as possible. Sometimes when we ask them whether they wrote this, they do not even remember whether they have written it or not ! The genuine cases which are really serious are always taken with great consideration and respect and we try to accommodate them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : We only want to know the names from the hon. Minister. Do tell their names..... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : The names will be known only after the inquiry..... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We shall come to know about the names only after the inquiry..... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Do tell the names..... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Not before the inquiry.

[English]

Development of Telecommunication Services in Tripura

*415. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes to be taken up during the Seventh Five Year Plan for development of telecommunication services in Tripura; and

(b) the details of the schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). For the telecommunications services for the country, an outlay of Rs. 4010 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission. Based on this allocation, guidelines have been given to the state units for finalising their plans. The details of the schemes for Tripura will be known after plans for N.E. Region are finalised.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Agartala is the capital of Tripura. But Agartala is not connected with the STD. Not only the State capitals of different States but the district headquarters also are connected with the STD. I do not find any reason why, even after 38 years of independence, the Government is not able to connect the capital of Tripura with STD. It is a clear example how the Central Government is neglecting Tripura and other parts of the North-Eastern region.

My clear question to the Minister is this : When the Central Government will finalise the communication plans and whether the STD facility will be included in the