

to make proper planning and necessary efforts like putting up balancing equipment, debottlenecking and provision of captive facilities etc. All these are pertinent and germane steps which could be taken by the individual units.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Many of our industries...

MR. SPEAKER : You are matching the lady member who put the question on this side.

Please be a little louder.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Many of our industries in the public sector are incurring heavy losses due to outdated machinery and obsolete techniques. Will the Government implement a time-bound programme for modernisation of the machinery and updating the technology ?

SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI : I agree with the hon. Member that one of the reasons for lower capacity utilisation is obsolescence of the machinery and capital equipment. We have been taking steps to modernise the level of equipment and it shall be our endeavour in the Seventh Plan also.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Additional Kerosene and Cooking Gas for Orissa

\*21. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have approached the Union Government for allocation of additional kerosene to Orissa and to clear the backlog of the cooking gas; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

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

(b) Additional allocation of Kerosene has been made to Orissa. Measures have also been taken by the Oil Industry to improve supplies of LPG in Orissa.

### Expansion of Telecommunication network during Seventh Five Year Plan period

\*27. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to implement schemes for the expansion of telecommunication network during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the expansion of telecommunication network in the above Plan period;

(c) the amount approved by the Planning Commission for implementing telecommunication network in the Plan period; and

(d) the salient features of the telecommunication schemes proposed to be implemented in the Plan period ?

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

(b) and (c). The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 4010 crores for telecommunications services during the 7th Plan.

(d) Broadly, it will be possible to add the following facilities :

(i) About 11 lakhs direct exchange lines.

(ii) About 9000 long distance public telephones.

(iii) About 13,000 route KMs of microwave systems and 4000 route KMs of fibre optical system.

(iv) About 30,000 telex lines.

(v) Rural integrated digital networks in 15 secondary switching areas

(coterminus with one or more revenue districts).

**Fresh bids from Foreign Companies for Exploration of Oil**

\*28. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :  
SHRI AMAL DATTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to invite fresh bids from foreign oil companies for exploration and production of oil; and

(b) which are the foreign companies so invited and on what terms and conditions ?

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

(b) The names of the foreign companies would be available on after bids are invited and responses received.

The terms and conditions are yet to be finalised.

**Oil Exploration in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**

\*29. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :  
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether experiment of oil exploration in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is going on at present;

(b) whether deposits of oil and gas have been found at any place in these States; and

(c) the amount spent on each project ?

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

(b) Gas has been found at Ghotaru and Manhara Tibba in Rajasthan.

(c) Till 31st March, 1985 the amount spent on exploration in Rajasthan is about Rs. 56 crores. Details of exploratory expenditure in Madhya Pradesh are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Mail distribution work by private agencies**

\*30. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :  
SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to involve private agencies in the mail distribution work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(a) Does not arise.

**Functioning of Clandestine Refineries at Indore**

\*31. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Blitz of 5th October, 1985 wherein it has been stated that some racketeers succeeded in running three clandestine refineries at Indore to refine mobil oil and marketing the spurious products in sealed tins under the brand names of Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum;

(b) if so, whether similar spurious products in sealed tins have also been sold in other parts of the country; and

(c) the action Government have taken in regard thereto ?

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

(b) and (c), A statement is given below :