

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Ocean Thermal Plant in Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, the time by which it will start functioning; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A detailed Feasibility Report for setting up of a 1 MW OTEC Plant at Lakshadweep was commissioned through M/s Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India Ltd., Ranchi, a Public Sector Consultancy firm. The Estimated capital cost was considered too high even for pilot plant. Different alternatives are, therefore being examined to reduce the initial cost to enable a final decision in the matter.

(c) The Seventh Plan allocation for ocean energy development is Rs. 3 crores.

[*Translation*]

#### Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

\*110. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme for opening more telephone exchanges in rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of places where Government propose to open these telephone exchanges during the current financial year and State-wise details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3213/86]

(c) Does not arise,

[*English*]

#### Privatisation of Sale of Coal

\*113. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration for privatisation of the sale of coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Demand for Cooking Gas

\*114. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the demand for cooking gas connections is increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether Government has sought information from the States regarding their demands;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Union Government has fixed some targets to be achieved during the Seventh Five Year Plan period in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Release of new LPG connections is made according to an annual plan by the oil marketing companies. This plan is determined by projections regarding augmentation in the availability of LPG, of bottling capacity and of transportation and infrastructural arrangements.

(d) Apart from an actual release of 17.1 lakh connections in 1985-86, during the

remaining year of the Seventh Plan it is proposed to release approximately 70 lakh new connections, subject to augmentation of LPG and bottling capacity.

**Letters of Intent recommended by Orissa**

\*115. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for letters of intent recommended by the Government of Orissa pending with the Ministry;

(b) since how long have these applications been pending; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to decide them at an early date ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) to (c). As on 31.10.1986, twelve applications received under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for the grant of Letters of Intent for locating industries in Orissa are at various stages of considerations. Of these, four applications are pending for about six months, five applications for four months and the rest have been received recently. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to dispose of all pending applications as expeditiously as possible.

**Setting up of Karnal Oil Refinery Project**

\*116. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of Karnal Oil Refinery Project which was cleared two years ago has not started as yet resulting in escalation of the cost;

(b) the reasons for delay in setting up this refinery; and

(c) the remedial action being taken to expedite the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) to (c). Proposal for setting up of a 6 MTPA grass root refinery at Karnal was approved in September, 1984. Preliminary work on acquisition of land, soil investigation, etc. were started. However, during the exercises made for financing the 7th Plan, it was found that constraint of resources was coming in the way of implementing this project in the Public Sector. As a result, setting up of this refinery in the joint sector is being considered and offers from various private parties for participation are being examined.

**Separate Telephone District for Industrial Complex of Kalyan**

\*117. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to form a separate Kalyan Telephone District, which is a highly Industrially developed complex, for communication purposes;

(b) the progress of work at Murbad Telephone Exchange;

(c) the progress made in giving telephone connections at Dhasai Saralgaon and Shivale of Murbad Taluka, Thana district; and

(d) the progress of the buildings of telephone exchanges at Kulgaon, Dombali and Ambernath ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Capacity of Murbad Exchange has been raised from 100 to 200 lines.

(c) (i) A Long Distance public Telephone for Dhasai is expected to be opened on 30.11.1986.

(ii) A Long Distance Public Telephone was opened at Saralgaon in March, 1985.

(iii) Shivale Long Distance Public Telephone is not justified for the present.