

(iv) Ten small exchanges will be newly opened in the district.

(v) 75 Long Distance PCOs are also proposed to be opened.

(d) Additional facilities indicated in (c) above are expected to be completed during the 7th Plan period.

#### **New Telephone Expansion Schemes**

491. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new telephone expansion schemes in the country; and

(b) the time by which the telephone facilities will immediately available to the needy persons all over the country without waiting for the long years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) These are still under discussion with the Planning Commission.

(b) Subject to the availability of financial resources, this may be feasible by the turn of the century.

#### **Construction of Post Office and Telephone Exchange Building at Laxmi Nagar, Delhi**

492. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a post office in the District shopping Centre at Radhu Place is being set up;

(b) whether a plot is being earmarked by the Delhi Development Authority for the Post Office and the Telephone Exchange at Laxmi Nagar ; and

(c) the reasons for not setting up a Post Office building in this are so far ?

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

(b) Postmaster General, Delhi Circle has requested Delhi Development Authority for allotting a plot for construction of a Post Office building in the District Shopping Centre which is to come up in Laxmi Nagar area. The present Laxmi Nagar P. O. is proposed to be shifted this departmental building when it is constructed. A plot of land measuring 2 acres has been acquired from DDA for the construction of Telephone Exchange building at Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.

(c) As no departmental plot is as yet available.

#### **Increase in Rate of Royalty on Crude Oil to Gujarat**

493. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of increase in the rate of royalty on crude oil to Gujarat and determining it at the rate of 20 per cent of the import parity price is pending since a long time;

(b) whether soon after fixing the rate of royalty at the rate of Rs. 61 per ton, Union Government increased the domestic price of crude from Rs. 305 per ton to Rs. 1,182 per ton in July, 1981 which is now at Rs. 1,382 per ton ; and

(c) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter as the State Government is losing considerable revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAT KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c) : The question of revi-

sion of the existing rate of royalty is under consideration and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

**Setting up of Regional Office of ONGC in Andhra Pradesh**

494. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the conclusion drawn after conducting offshore drilling operations by Oil and Natural Gas Commission extensively in the coastal Andhra Districts;

(b) whether a task force has been set up by ONGC to go into the details regarding utilisation of natural gas;

(c) if so, the details of its recommendations; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up a Regional Office of ONGC in Andhra Pradesh to expedite the drilling operations with utmost efficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :

(a) Gas has been discovered in onshore areas and oil and gas in offshore areas in deep waters. The basin is considered prospective but commercial quantities of hydrocarbons are yet to be established.

(b) and (c) : Yes, Sir. The task force has recommended that various fractions of natural gas be used for production of fertilizers, petro-chemicals and liquid petroleum gas.

(d) The existing office at Rajahmundry has been controlling the onshore operations in Krishna-Godavari Basin since July, 1977. It is proposed to be strengthened further. An offshore supply base has been set up at Visakhapatnam port and a helicopter base at Vijayawada airport.

**S.T.D., Telex and Auto-Exchange Facilities in Bidar, Karnataka**

495. SHRI NARSINGHRAO SURYA WANSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD, Telex and Auto-exchange facilities are scanty in Bidar; Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are proposing for their expansion; and

(c) if so, the time by which these will be expanded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) At present an automatic exchange of 600 lines is working at Bidar with a waiting list of 208 lines. However, STD and Telex facilities are not available at Bidar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) *Auto Exchange* :

Present capacity of 600 lines of auto exchange is planned to be expanded progressively during the 7th plan period.

*S.T.D.* : Bidar is likely to be provided with STD facilities during the 7th plan period after the reliable transmission medium linking Bidar with Hyderabad is commissioned.

*Telex* : A 20 line telex exchange has been planned for Bidar during the 7th plan period.

Party Position in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies etc.

496 DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :