

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 :

(a) party-wise position in Lok Sabha and various States and Union Territories Assemblies as at present and as before the latest elections; how does each party's strength compare then and now;

(b) how many such constituencies were lost by each party in these elections as were won by them in the previous elections; and

(c) how do the figures of (b) compare with those obtained in previous three elections as related to each party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) :
(a) to (c) : Information regarding party-

wise position for the Vth, VIth, VIIth, and VIIIth Lok Sabha as compiled by the Election Commission is in the attached statement. Similar information for State Assemblies is not yet available since the elections to state Assemblies and Union territories were concluded only recently. This information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

In view of the changes which have taken place in political parties from time to time (whether by way of split, merger or otherwise), it is not feasible to make any comparison of the type indicated in parts (b) and (c) of the question without the risk (in the case of most of the parties) of the conclusions being merely expression of opinions.

Statement

Statement showing seats secured by different political parties at the General Elections to the House of the People held in 1971, 1977, 1980 and 1984.

Name of Party	1971	1977	1980	1985
1	2	3	4	5
NATIONAL PARTIES :				
1. Indian National Congress	352	154	—	403
2. Indian National Congress (I)	—	—	353	—
3. Bhartiya Lok Dal	—	295	—	—
4. Janata Party	—	—	31	10
5. Janata Party (Secular)	—	—	41	—
6. Bhartiya Janata Party	—	—	—	2
7. Lok Dal	—	—	—	3
8. Indian Congress(Socialalist)	—	—	—	4
9. Indian National Congress (Organisation)	16	3	—	—
10. Swatantra Party	8	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
11. Bhartiya Jan Sangh	22	—	—	—
13. Samyukta Socialist Party	—	—	—	—
13. Praja Socialist Party	3	—	—	—
14. Communist Party of India	23	7	11	6
15. Communist Party of India (M)	25	22	36	22
16. Indian National Congress (U)	—	—	13	—
TOTAL	451	481	485	450

Name of Party	1971	1977	1980	1985
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STAFF AFFAIRS :

All Party Hill Leaders' Conference	1	—	—	—
Bangla Congress	1	—	—	—
Bhartiya Kranti Dal	1	—	—	—
Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	—	19	2	12
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	23	1	16	2
Kerala Congress	3	2	1	—
Kerala Congress (J)	—	—	—	2
United Front of Nagaland	1	—	—	—
Revolutionary Socialist Party	3	4	4	3
Shiromani Akali Dal	1	9	1	—
United Goans (Sequeira Group)	1	—	—	—
Forward Block	2	3	3	2
Muslim League	2	2	2	2
Vishal Haryana Party	1	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	—	2	3	3

1	2	3	4	5
Peasant and Worker's Party	—	5	—	1
United Democratic Front	—	1	—	—
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	—	1	1	—
Sikkim Janata Parishad	—	—	4	—
Telugu Desam	—	—	—	30
Indian Congress (J)	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	40	49	34	58
Other Parties	13	3	1	—
Independents	14	9	9	5
GRAND TOTAL	518	542	529*	513**

NOTES : *In 1980, election from 12 Parliamentary constituencies of Assam could not be held as in one parliamentary constituency viz. 3-Autonomous District (ST) sufficient staff was not available to conduct the election due to no-cooperation of Govt. employees whereas in 11 parliamentary constituencies no nominations were filed. In addition in 1-Shillong parliamentary constituency in Meghalaya election could not be held as all the validity nominated candidates withdrew their candidatures.

**In 1984, election for 14 parliamentary constituencies in Assam and 13 parliamentary constituencies in Punjab were not held while the dates of poll in Mandi parliamentary constituency (Himachal Pradesh) and Ladakh parliamentary constituency (Jammu & Kashmir) have been postponed to 25.5.85 and 24.4.85 respectively.

Opening of More Telegraph Offices in Bangalore

497. SHRI V. S. KRISHAN IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telegraph offices in existence at present in Bangalore City; and

(b) whether Government propose to open some more telegraph offices in Bangalore, especially in new extension areas like Jeevan Bhima Nagar, J. P. Nagar, Banashankari, etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of tele-