

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: And it will go on increasing. That is the logic.

Setting up of AIR Stations for working through satellite

*131. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up some more All India Radio Stations during the Sixth Five Year Plan to work through satellite; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (b) There is no plan to set up new radio stations to work through satellite only. However, A.I.R. has planned the net-working of all the existing AIR stations through the INSAT to be launched in April 1982. As a result of this and through the facilities of uplinking with the satellite to be provided at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, the programmes broadcast from these stations could be relayed via the satellite by all the other stations. The new stations to be set up will also have receiver facilities.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister has stated in reply to my question that new stations will be set up. I would like to know where the stations are going to be set up before the INSAT satellite is in operation in 1982.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): No new stations are going to be set up only for the purpose of INSAT. All the existing stations will utilise INSAT. The existing 94 stations, including 85 regular and relay stations will utilise it.

Oil Exploration in offshore areas by ONGC and Oil India

*133. **SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India have chalked out comprehensive programmes to explore oil offshore areas and hope to find more oil in the North-Eastern belt ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. An ambitious five year plan has formulated for exploration and production of oil in the country.

(b)

I. OFFSHORE

(i) *Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC):*

The ONGC will continue exploration in the Bombay Offshore basin and extend this to deeper waters. It also proposes to explore structures offshore of Saurashtra in the Gulf of Kutch, Andaman & Nicobar Shelf as well as the Basins in the East Coast such as Palk Bay and the Krishna-Godavari Basins. The ONGC plans to increase the number of offshore rigs deployed so as to drill about 95 exploratory wells in different offshore areas during the Sixth Plan period.

Apart from accelerating the development of the Bombay High field development of other structures, namely, R-12, South Bassein and North Bassein fields, B-37, B-39 structures, will also be carried out during the Plan period.

The ONGC is also pursuing an accelerated plan for increasing production from the Bombay High and adjoining fields to increase production from a level of 8.4 MT in 1981-82 to a level of 19.12 MT in 1984-85.

It may be mentioned that ONGC has recently discovered crude oil in two new structures, B-57, located about 35 Kms. to the east of the Bombay High field and in the Palk Strait. Further wells are proposed to be drilled to assess the potential.

(ii) *Oil India Limited (OIL)*

The OIL has conducted aeromagnetic and geophysical/seismic surveys in the 1200 Kms. area in Mahanadi basin offshore. Two wells have been drilled in the area but these did not yield hydrocarbons. The data collected in these surveys is being reinterpreted with the assistance of consultants to identify new drillable locations.

II. NORTH-EASTERN BELT

(i) ONGC : The ONGC proposes to carry out geological surveys in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland and geophysical surveys are proposed to be carried out in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. Exploratory drilling would be extended to new areas in Assam, e.g., Dhansiri Valley and in Naga foothills. Drilling would be continued in Tripura and in the Cachar areas of Assam.

The ONGC is examining the possibility of increasing the production of crude oil to reach about 4 MTPA in the next few years and to sustain it at that level upto about the end of the century.

(ii) OIL: The OIL has drawn up plans which envisage accelerated drilling and work over effort in developed and new fields to produce 3.07 MTPA and sustain it at that level upto about the end of the century. Plans have also been formulated to explore and develop its concession area in Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: The hon. Minister in his statement has given a good picture about the work being undertaken by the ONGC and other organisations for exploration of oil in the country. I want to know whether any geological and geophysical survey to locate oil has been undertaken in Himachal Pradesh, and if so what are the findings of the survey and also whether any exploratory drilling has been undertaken in this region so far.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : We drilled in the Jwalamukhi area, but unfortunately oil was not traceable there. Now we have asked the ONGC to further conduct seismic survey of the area and after the seismic data is analysed, then we will be able to say whether any new work can be started.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: On the basis of the present production of oil in the country and the new oil wells that are likely to go into production, I want to know when the Government expects to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of production of oil.

SHRI P.C. SETHI: It is very difficult to predict, but on the basis of the present programme of production we will be producing about 19.12 million tonnes from Bombay High and another 10.5

million tonnes from on-shore areas both of Assam and Gujarat and therefore the total production will be in the vicinity of 30 million tonnes which will be 70 to 75 per cent of our requirements. But we have struck oil in the Palk Straits and a new structure B-57 east to Bombay High and if these oil wells are found to be commercially viable our production of oil will go up.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Soviet Union has come forward to assist India in exploring oil and if so in what form they have come forward.

SHRI P.C. SETHI : India has signed a Protocol with the Soviet Union only yesterday and it is a wide ranging Protocol. We will be taking up the question according to the priorities, and about 40 German experts will come here during the next one and a half year or two years and then we will take up also certain areas in West Bengal, Tripura and later certain wells to be improved in Gujarat. They will also offer some equipment and our Indian scientists and technicians will also go there for training.

श्री चन्द्रशेखर आजाद की स्मृति में डाक टिकट जारी किया जाना

* 134. श्री सत्य नारायण जटिया : क्या संचार मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के महान शहीद श्री चन्द्र शेखर आजाद की स्मृति में अब तक डाक टिकट जारी न करने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) वर्ष 1980-81 और 1981-82 के दौरान किन व्यक्तियों के सम्मान में डाक टिकट जारी किए गए ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार स्वतंत्रता आन्दोलन में अपनी आहुति देने वाले क्रांतिकारियों की स्मृति में डाक टिकट जारी करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) to (c) Proposals for issuing commemorative postage stamps in honour of great martyrs of the country, including Shri Chandra