

आने वाले कामूले में उनके साथ ज्यादा न्याय किया जाए।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** न्याय तो न्याय होता है—ज्यादा या कम क्या होता है?

**श्री वसंत साठे :** ज्यादा तसल्ली बढ़ा—तसल्ली कम हो रही है अभी।

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister in view of the large amount paid to the agency whether he would like to consider and examine the issue as to why the official media should not have their own correspondents part time or full time so that the large amount paid to the agency is not paid?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** This is a good suggestion. We would definitely bear it in mind to strengthen the AIR's own news system.

#### Oil exploration in West Bengal and Tripura

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\*227. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS:**

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the comments made by the Soviet Oil Minister that there is good prospect in enlarging the oil exploration in West Bengal and Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details of the working programme for 1980—85?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period 1980—85, the ONGC propose to carry out 27 party years of seismic work and 10 party years of gravity magnetic work in West Bengal and 10 party years of seismic survey and 15 party years of

geological survey in Tripura. It is also proposed to drill 19 wells (78,000 mts.) in West Bengal and Tripura during 1980—85.

**SHRI AJOY BISWAS:** ONGC started their activities in Tripura in 1971. It is a matter of regret that they have not been able to reach the target so far. The target of the drilling is 5,000. But they have so far drilled not more than 3,500. So far as I know they are violating the technical norm which has been fixed for drilling. They are using soft bit instead of the hard bit and the marked proportion also is not the same as prescribed by the technical people. So, my specific question is why the ONGC authorities were not able to drill upto the targeted point of all the points so far drilled? Is it because of any technical fault or because of sabotage? Have ONGC authorities received any complaint in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** Actually, the projected depth, as far as Tripura is concerned is 4000 metres for Gogalia and 50000 metres for Rokhia. Upto 15-8-81, in Gogalia area, the ONGC had drilled upto 3748 metres and in Rokhia area, it is only 3371 metres. Near Rukhia, there is a possibility of finding oil and the prospects appear to be very good. Still the period of collaboration between Soviet and Indian teams is not yet over and, with their consultation and guidance, we are carrying on the drilling work.

**SHRI AJOY BISWAS:** May I know whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has detected gas in their area whereas, while we are drilling a few kms. away from the drilling point of Bangladesh, we are not able to detect gas or oil? What is the reason because the zone is the same?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** According to my report, no gas has been struck there. There is a possibility of, as I have said, finding gas in Rokhia area.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** The oil experts say that, according to the present-day knowledge and technology, it has been estimated that the following remaining quantum of regional seismic survey is to be completed. Ganga valley and Himalayan foothills—4000 km. Rajasthan (a) Jaisalmer district and (b) Bikaner basin—2000 km. and 1000 km. respectively; West Bengal—1500 km. Tripura and Mizoram—1500 km. etc. etc. The total comes to 16,500 km. out of that, may I know whether during the period of 1980—85, 3000 km., that is, 1500 km. for West Bengal and 1500 km. for Tripura, will be covered?

Then, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that 19 wells were going to be drilled in West Bengal and Tripura. What will be the break-up of these wells for West Bengal and Tripura separately. I want to know whether the drilling work will be taken up in Galsi, in the district of Burdwan, Nadia—he has mentioned 24-Praganas—Sunderban area, Himalayan foothills of West Bengal and off-shore are of Bay of Bengal. How many metres below are they going to drill?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** He has put a number of questions. But I will try to answer briefly some of them.

In the West Bengal area, as I had said before also in this House, in the Diamond Harbour area and Bodra area....

**AN HON. MEMBER:** You did not go to an adequate depth.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** That is not the case. Whenever they encounter any difficulty or the drilling is not possible, they leave that well and go to some other place.

In these areas of Diamond Harbour and Bodra, we are taking up the work in consultation with the Soviet Union. As far as other areas are concerned, as I had pointed out before also, we have entered into a consultancy with M/s. Geoconsultants Inc. U.S.A. headed by an Indian, for delta model study

of the Bengal Basin, whereby the entire Bengal Basin will be covered.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Modernisation of Indian Telephone Industry

\*224. **SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to go in for technology transfer from abroad expansion and modernisation of Indian Telephone Industries and for satellite transmission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rate of growth per annum has been formulated to meet telecom demands; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):** (a) Yes, Sir, to the extent essential.

(b) Yes, Sir. The P&T Department has projected the growth rate for local telephones of approximately 12 per cent per annum.

(c) The ITI propose to take up the following major expansion and modernisation programmes during the Sixth Plan period:—

(i) Setting up of a Crossbar Factory at Rae Bareilly with a capacity of 2 lakh lines per annum of Crossbar Switching equipment of ICP design;

(ii) Setting up a capacity for manufacture of 1 million telephone instruments of contemporary design at its two Units at Naini and Bangalore.

(iii) Expansion of Palghat Unit from 10,000 lines per annum of small electronic exchanges to 1.5 lakh lines per annum of electronic trunk automatic exchanges, rural and private automatic branch exchanges.

(iv) Setting up the manufacturing capacity for new generation channel-