

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-

ling/multiplexing equipment in its transmission Divisions at Bangalore and Naini.

(v) Setting up the manufacturing capacity for a number of telecommunication equipments such as SCPC (Single Channel Per Carrier) Ground Communication Equipments, Low Noise Amplifiers Digital Sub-Systems etc. for use in Satellite Earth Stations.

Setting up of Trunk Automatic Exchange at Leh

*228. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Leh Telephone Exchange has not got the facilities of Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) as are available in Srinagar, Jammu and other district Headquarters of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-availability of TAX facilities of Leh, it is very difficult to get trunk calls to Delhi, Srinagar, and Jammu telephone exchanges and vice versa through the Satellite Communication System;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up TAX at Leh; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Some of the district headquarters including Leh do not have the facilities of Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX).

(b) No, Sir. Adequate trunk circuits are available at Leh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present, Leh is a manual exchange. Moreover, the present trunk traffic does not justify installation of a TAX at Leh.

Utilisation of Microwave Tower in Bhavnagar District as TV Relay Centre

*229. SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans and proposals to make use in future as T.V. Relay Centre the Microwave Tower erected/constructed near village Morchand of Gogha Taluk of Bhavnagar district (Saurashtra region of Gujarat State);

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are some expert opinions that if this Microwave Tower be used as T.V. Relay Centre from Bombay, it will give good results for all the Saurashtra region for T.V. programmes at a very low cost and expenses;

(d) if so, whether keeping in view the same Government propose to appoint an Expert Committee to go into it;

(e) if so, the details thereof and when and how it will be formed; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). No Sir. The P&T microwave tower as put up at present cannot be used for television transmission because the design of tower for P&T is different from that of a TV tower.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f). Does not arise.

पेट्रोल पम्पों द्वारा पेट्रोल/डीजल की कम सप्लाई

* 230. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने इस बात की पूरी जांच की है कि पेट्रोल पम्पों पर स्कूटर