

**"SAX" at Jukhala in Bilaspur ..  
Distt. of H.P.**

\*340. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned "SAX" at Jukhala in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date of sanction and the likely date of installation;

(c) if not, the likely date of sanction and installation and the reasons for delay in sanction; and

(d) when the deposits for telephone connections were made by the subscribers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) to (c). No, Sir. For opening the Telephone Exchange at Jukhala, the trunk line to parent exchange of Bilaspur is required. This is to pass in vicinity of high voltage power line which requires prior clearance from Power Telecom. Co-ordination Committee. The clearance is still awaited to the reference made to P.T.C.C. in August, 1981. The project will be sanctioned after receipt of clearance. The normal lead time between sanction of the project and installation of the exchange is about 24 months.

(d) The deposits were made as follows:

3	on 4-12-1976
7	on 26-4-1980
1	on 21-1-1981

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Sir, in view of the fact that the initial deposits were made as early as in 1976 by the subscribers and that the State Government paid Rs. 15,000 on 14th of March 1977 there is a long delay in the clearance of this project and a reference was made earlier also in Q. No. 1209 dated the 28th August

1981 and in Q. No. 253 dated 24th November 1981. Now, this P.T.C.C. is taking a long time. May I know from the hon. Minister when the Committee would clear it early and the project would be taken up for installation because the whole system of communication has been paralysed in that area by the erection of the live wires by the Punjab State Electricity Board and that has deprived the whole district including the district headquarters of the benefit of communication? How long would it take to get this SAX cleared, sanctioned and installed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have just received the clearance from the P.T.C.C. and I can give an assurance that this would be completed within a maximum period of six months.

**Ceiling on Number of Cylinders allotted to L.P.G. distributors in Bombay**

\*341. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed any ceiling on the number of cylinders to be given to an L.P.G. distributor in Bombay per month;

(b) if so, what is the ceiling and when was it imposed;

(c) whether in view of increasing demand for LPG connections, any new dealers have been appointed since the imposition of the ceiling in such areas of Bombay where the distributors have reached their limits, and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that applications were invited for appointment of new dealers in the areas mentioned in (c) above, interviews held, but no appointments made; and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether in view of the hardships caused by the aforesaid ceiling

to consumers, especially in densely populated areas, Government propose to consider the withdrawal of the ceiling or expedite new appointments?

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

(b) For Bombay the ceiling is 6,000 refills per month per distributor. This was decided in April, 1978.

(c) While some new dealers have been appointed and some more are in the process of being appointed, it cannot be directly linked to their ceiling limits having been reached. This is because of the restructuring of various agencies presently being undertaken in Bombay area.

(d) Distributorships to be awarded under the reserved categories against the 1980-81 plan were delayed pending revision in the guidelines for the selection of dealers and distributors. Revised guidelines have since been circulated and the oil companies are making all efforts to finalise the pending distributorships as quickly as possible. Details of applications received are not maintained by the Government.

(e) A Working Group is looking into the issue relating to the revision of ceilings. As for expediting new appointments, this is already being done.

**SHR G. M. BANATWALLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I put my supplementaries, I seek your kind protection. My questions are very specific and I have asked for specific information, but the way the replies are given, no specific question has been met. I would, therefore, request you to kindly reprimand the Minister or direct him, as you like, to first answer these questions, and then we can proceed with the supplementaries.

I may draw your kind attention to part (c) of my question. There I have

said that there is an increasing demand for the LPG connections. In certain areas, specially in the densely populated area, the distributors have reached their limit, causing inconvenience to others, who are registered there and whose numbers do not come up. I have asked whether new distributors have been appointed or not in those particular areas and if so, how many. This is because by contention is that not a single distributor was appointed since the imposition of ceiling till this question came up. The answer given is that some are appointed, some are in the process of being appointed. This is not the way to answer the questions.

Similarly, in part (d) of the question, I say categorically that for the appointment of dealers, even interviews were held and despite the interviews, not a single dealer was appointed. I have asked whether this is a fact or not. There is neither 'yes' nor 'no' in answer to that, whether this is a fact or not I would, therefore, first request you to direct the Minister to give specific answers to my questions at (c) and (d).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please satisfy Mr. Banatwalla.

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** As far as those areas where saturation point has been reached are concerned, I would like to point out to the hon. Member that for example in Kolaba at Diana Gas Service and Kakar Gas Service although the limit is 6000, the connections have already crossed over 7423 and 7077 respectively. However, I have said that the agencies are being restructured and I have positively given an answer that six agencies have since then been given, 13 are in the process and they are likely to be finalised during the month or so.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** When were these revised guidelines circulated? What steps have the Government taken to see that the appointments are being made according to

those guidelines and the persons qualified according to those guidelines are not being ignored because of various other factors like influences and such other undesirable things. What steps has the Government taken to see that these guidelines are properly adhered to?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Sir, I would place a copy of the guidelines on the Table of the House.

As far as the other matter is concerned, I would like to point out that a Board has been formed now and therefore, a question of any influence does not arise. The Board is free to decide on the basis of merits of the candidates.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### **Oil Exploration in Bay of Bengal**

\*333. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the comprehensive oil exploration plans of both ONGC and Oil India Ltd. include off-shore exploration in Bay of Bengal also;

(b) if so, the details of the plan including possible sites; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SATHI):** (a) to (c). During the sixth plan, exploration including drilling in various parts of the Bay of Bengal such as Mahanadi, Palk Bay, Krishna-Godavari and Andaman and Nicobar basins is envisaged.

##### **Appointment of Teachers as Postal Agents**

\*335. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities for the delivery of postal dak

particularly in remote backward areas are not easily available to all the villages in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating for augmenting these services; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint teachers of village primary schools as postal agents on honorarium-cum-commission basis where the post office facility is not available?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL):** (a) No, Sir. Facilities for delivery of postal dak even in remote and backward areas are being provided to all the villages in the country to the extent possible and in the manner feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.

##### **Oil Drilling in Godavari Basin**

\*336. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) the technological problems that have been encountered in the Godavari basin after oil was struck in September, 1980; and

(b) the steps being taken to overcome them so that off-shore drilling can be resumed?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) The major technological problems encountered are unfavourable sub-sea conditions, high velocity ocean currents, presence of soft clay and mud with very little bearing capacity.

(b) These have been technically assessed and studied and tentative solutions have been identified. These will be implemented when the operations