

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