

under review. Construction of new pipeline terminals, such as those at Bijwasan, Ambala and Jullundur; augmentation of railway head depot tankages and facilities; development of the retail net work by putting up more petrol and ESD retail outlets, etc. are some of the measures designed to further streamline the distribution machinery. In regard to LPG, domestic availability is expected to increase substantially in the coming months with the commissioning of an LPG plant in Duliajan (Assam) and of the catalytic crackers under completion at Mathura and Koyali (Gujarat).

Oil Struck near Ahmedabad

*173. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil has been struck in a new field near Ahmedabad in Gujarat ;

(b) if so, what is the estimated reserve of oil and gas in the new field ; and

(c) what steps are being taken for fuller exploration and exploitation of the reserves in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):

(a) Oil has recently been found during preliminary production testing in Ognej well No. 1 on a small new structure near Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

(b) The production potential of the area will be known after detailed testing of the well has been carried out.

(c) Further exploration and exploitation strategy would depend on the results of the detailed testing.

Telephone channels through insat-IA

*176. SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK :

SHRI BALASAHEB

VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Satellite IA would help expansion of Telephone channels ;

(b) if so, the areas to be benefited from the expansion of the telephone channels and the time when the same will become operational ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to reduce the congestion and other problems arising out of the shortening of the INSAT-IA ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Twenty Eight earth station at Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Shillong, Jaipur, Lucknow, Jullundur Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Ernakulam, Srinagar, Jodhpur, Bhub, Panjim, Minicoy, Gangtok, Itanagar, Kohima, Imphal Agartala, Leh, Port Blair, Aizwal, Kavaratti and Car Nicobar are being connected in the Satellite network. Test operations have already started.

(c) The on-orbit life of INSAT-IA spacecraft is now expected to be about 2.5 years. Second Satellite INSAT-IB launch is scheduled for the 4th July, 83.

राजस्थान में गैस पर आधारित उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना

*177. श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : क्या पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान में बम्बई हाई गैस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक कम्प्लेक्स स्थापित किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में व्यौरा क्या है ?