

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No. Sir.

### Reception of Signals from Insat

**4519. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether WPC wing of his Ministry has amended the rules thereby allowing reception of signals directly from INSAT 1 B and also introduced licensing provisions for TVs and VCRs to receive such signals;

(b) what is the number of applications received for such licences since the Introduction of the amendment and the number of licences issued to the manufacturers and users separately;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in issuing licences to all the applicants; and

(d) whether some complaints have been received to the effect that the licence issuing authorities harass the applicants by adopting delaying tactics and if so, what action Government have taken to streamline the procedure?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) :** (a) Yes Sir, presently the reception of signals from Indian domestic satellites (INSAT) only is permi-

tted; after obtaining necessary licence.

(b) to (d) The Department of Telecommunications has decided that operating licences for TV or VCR sets used or capable of being used for reception of the television programme direct from INSAT will be issued by the concerned Divisional Engineer Telegraph/Telecom, District Manager/General Manager Telephones. The possession licence or dealer licence are to be issued by the concerned General Manager Telecom/Telephones. The details pertaining to item No. (b), (c) & (d) are being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

### Contract for Mahanadi Offshore Oil Exploration

**4520. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a contract for oil exploration in the Mahanadi offshore in the Bay of Bengal has recently been signed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the contract is likely to be implemented; and

(d) What is the approximate amount involved in off shore drilling in the above area?