

Satellite television relay network

211. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the districts of the country have been brought under satellite television relay network;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Television signals from INSAT IB Satellite are available over entire area of our country. Doordarshan has taken advantage of this facility to bring up 118 Low Power TV transmitters and 26 High Power Transmitters during 1984-85 so that the TV Coverage can be extended to 70 per cent of the population in the country.

Abandoning of drilling operations in Saurashtra by American Oil Company

212. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the American Oil Company 'Chevron' has abandoned its drilling operations in Saurashtra offshore region where it was granted permission on concessional terms; and

(b) if, so, what action is being proposed to be taken against the company and what reasons have been given by the company for abandoning the drilling operations?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) As per the contract with Chevron they are inquired to drill a minimum of three exploratory wells in the area given to

them in Saurashtra offshore region. They have so far drilled one well in this area which has proved to be dry. Chevron have not abandoned the area and further exploratory effort in terms of the contract will be continued by them.

Price preference to indigenous suppliers of equipment for oil exploration

213. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to give price preference to the indigenous suppliers of equipment and services for oil exploration; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; a decision to this effect has been taken in principle. The details of the price preference scheme will be announced shortly.

Centrally financed power projects

214. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many centrally financed power projects, Statewise, were targeted to be completed by the end of the current financial year but have not been completed even partially;

(b) how many projects out of these would be completed during the financial year 1984-85; and

(c) if the answer to part- (a) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take to complete these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) All the Central Sector Power Projects, which were to be completed up to the end of 1983-84 as per the target laid down at the time of formulation of the Sixth