

trative problems, as also the problems of industrial relations, and inter-State issues.

(c) The following steps have been taken to expedite the commissioning of the on-going hydro-electric projects:

(i) Monitoring of the projects has been strengthened, and the Construction Monitoring Directorate in the Central Electricity Authority is closely monitoring various activities in the projects.

(ii) Coordination and review meetings are being held regularly in the CEA with the project authorities, equipment suppliers and manufacturers, construction agencies, etc.

(iii) A close watch is being kept on all constraints so that corrective action can be taken well in time.

(iv) Senior officers of the CEA visit project sites and review the causes of delays with the authorities concerned, so that problems can be resorted.

(v) The progress of projects is also being reviewed by the Department and, wherever necessary, better coordination is achieved between the project authorities, State Governments and Ministries concerned.

(vi) For improving management at the project level, detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Electricity Boards.

#### Equipments hired by ONGC

130. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of different equipments hired by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the last three years, including helicopters, oil rigs, etc.;

(b) what is the total amount paid on this account for each item separately;

(c) what are the basis on which these hiring rates were finalised;

(d) whether the Defence Ministry was consulted for hiring helicopters and if so, what was their reaction; and

(e) whether before hiring these equipments, the purchase of these items was considered and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Hiring of Jack-up rig by ONGC

131. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had incurred an expenditure of over S 74 million for the chartering/hiring of a jack-up rig upto September, 1976 from an American firm, whereas the total cost of this rig" is only about dollar 22 million;

(b) whether Government knew of this anomalous situation at the time of hiring the rig; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons to not buying a jack-up rig rather than hiring one at such huge cost?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) It is presumed the reference is to the charter hire of jack-up rig Shenai doah by ONGC for offshore operation. This rig had been hired by ONGC from M/s Atwood Oceanics Inc. initially for a period of one year from 12th March, 1976. Taking into account the requirements of ONGC, the contract has been extended from time to time on a yearly basis at competitive rates and the Commission has paid charter hire amounting to about US\$ 83 million upto 30th September, 1976.