

Selection of foreign companies for Oil Exploration

*415. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made the final selection of 14 foreign companies for exploration of oil on a production-sharing basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the names of those companies; and

(c) whether Indian entrepreneurs will also be permitted to bid in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Doordarshan Centre at Trivandrum

*416. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Central Government for the early completion of the Doordarshan Centre at Trivandrum in the light of the fact that the Kerala Government have met all the requirements needed for the setting up of a Centre there;

(b) what is the target date for completion of the project; and

(c) whether provision has been made in the Sixth Five Year Plan period to complete the Project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Site for the centre at Trivandrum (near Kodapan-nukum) has been taken over. Estimates for civil works have been sanctioned and tenders are being called.

Estimates for purchase of equipments have been sanctioned and orders placed on M/s BEL for Studio equipment and transmitter.

(b) 1984-85.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Increase in rates of advertisements

*417. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the increase in the price of newsprint by 100 per cent, the D.A.V.P. proposes to increase the rates of advertisements; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take to help the small newspapers which have been hit by the increase in the price of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) It would not be correct to state that the price of newsprint has increased by 100 per cent. However, taking into account the current developments, the question of introducing suitable modifications in the rates of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity advertisements has been taken up for review.

(b) Small newspapers have been given complete relief from the incidence of 15 per cent import duty levied on imported newsprint. A number of States have also exempted the newsprint required by this category of newspapers from the levy of Sales Tax. Besides, small newspapers also receive preferential treatment/weightage in the matter of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity advertisement rates.

Shortage of Essential Drugs

*418. SHRI GHHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH:
SHRI M. MOSES: