

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): No foreign oil company has so far been awarded a contract for oil exploration in India.

Accreditation of foreign correspondents.

103. SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign correspondents who are currently posted in India;

(b) what rules have been laid down for the accreditation of foreign correspondents; and

(c) whether protests have been received from foreign correspondents of unduly long delays and red-tapism in granting them accreditations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) 125 correspondents are accredited at the headquarters of the Government of India on behalf of foreign news media organisations, of whom 79 are foreign nationals and 46, Indian nationals.

(b) No separate rules have been laid down for the accreditation of foreign correspondents. Rules applicable to News Media Representatives for accreditation are applicable to such cases also.

(c) No, Sir.

Shifting to telephones in Bangalore Telephone District

104. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for shifting of telephones in the Bangalore telephone District during the calendar year 1981;

(b) the number out of them which have been shifted and the number

which are still pending sanctioned for how long; and

(c) the steps being taken to effect shifting of phones early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) The number of applications received so far for inter-exchange shift during the year 1981 is 1332.

(b) 898 of these cases have been cleared and 434 are pending. The oldest application pending for shift is dated 1-1-1981.

(c) A new telephone exchange is scheduled for commissioning in the Vijaynagar area which would expedite shifts.

Loss of diesel due to defetive pump Sets

105. SHRI GHHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to a news items which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 25th September, 1981 to the effect that India loses about Rs. 630 crores worth of diesel every year as a result of inefficient pump sets in the Agriculture Sector; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there may Be loss of diesel every year as a result of inefficient pump sets in the Agriculture Sector, it is not possible to quantify the exact loss in value.

The planning, investigation, design and construction of minor irrigation schemes including surveys and ground water exploitation come entirely under the purview of the State Governments and as such the Central Government