

(b) whether because of rains and storms, the trunk lines also go out of order and this problem has been causing inconvenience year after year; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to overcome these difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Heavy rains and storms do affect the open wire trunk lines.

(c) Following steps are being taken to over-come the difficulties caused by rains and storms :—

- (i) Pressurisation of cables which enable detection of faults even during dry season and its rectification.
- (ii) Use of jelly filled cables which are more tolerant to ingress of moisture.
- (iii) patrolling of cable routes to identify likely damages.
- (iv) Laying of main cables in ducts to protect them from external damage.
- (v) Provision of high grade inter-exchange circuits on Pulse Code Modulation, coaxial and microwave media to provide better quality and more dependable service.
- (vi) The open wire trunk lines are replaced by reliable media, e. g., UHF, Microwave and coaxial systems wherever it is technically feasible and financially viable.

Conservation of Petroleum Products

2134. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether special efforts are planned for conserving petroleum products;

(b) if so, the value of petroleum products expected to be saved during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantum of petroleum products expected to be saved during the Seventh Five Year Plan period is estimated at about 2.18 million tonnes valued at around Rs. 650 crores, based on current prices.

(c) Conservation activities proposed to be taken up during the Seventh Five Year Plan include intensification of education campaign to popularise fuel efficient cooking appliances, and other equipment, setting up of model depots in the State Road Transport Corporations, organising Driver Training Clinics, advancing loans for conversion to fuel efficient systems, promoting use of re-refined lubricants, and long life lubricants and greases etc.

Stationing of Krishna-Godavari field parties

2135. SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Krishna-Godavari field parties are not stationed near the exploration field;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.