

tions are going on to assess the Mining potentiality of the bottom lignite horizon.

(d) Several technical and economic issues are still to be resolved before considering the establishment of a lignite based power plant at Kapurdi.

#### Microwave Telephone System in Rajasthan

3327. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Rajasthan where microwave telephone system will start functioning during the current year ;

(b) the area in which telephone lines will be connected with microwave lines ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the pace of the work of microwave line is very slow ; and

(d) the time by which Ganganagar, Suratgarh, Loonkarsar and Bikaner, will be linked with Jaipur and Delhi through microwave ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) During the current year, Jodhpur has been linked to Jaipur via Ajmer through a Wideband Microwave link. No other Microwave link is planned for commissioning during this year.

(b) In the coming years of the 7th Five Year Plan, the following Wideband and Narrow Band Microwave schemes have been planned for commissioning in Rajasthan :

1. Jaipur—Bikaner Wideband
2. Bikaner Suratgarh—Ganganagar Narrowband
3. Jaipur—Sikar—Junjunu Narrowband

4. Ajmer—Bhilwara Narrowband

5. Jodhpur—Nagour Narrowband.

(c) No, Sir. The works on the various schemes are progressing as per plans and the schemes will be commissioned progressively during this plan.

(d) Ganganagar, Suratgarh and Bikaner are tentatively targeted to be linked with Jaipur during 1987-88. Jaipur is already linked to Delhi on wide Band Microwave and Coaxial links. At present, there is no proposal to link up Loonkarsar with any microwave system.

[English].

#### Drilling at Kaikalur in Andhra Pradesh

3328. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drilling at Kaikalur-3 in Andhra Pradesh was discontinued by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission due to recent floods ;

(b) if so, the estimated loss on this account ; and

(c) if not, the details of the drilling and the amount spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The well was drilled to a depth of 2129 metres and it is still under testing.

#### Legal status for Lok Adalats

3329. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to confer 'legal status' on Lok Adalats and to recognise legality of their verdicts ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes has made a proposal to the Government to enact legislation the subject of Legal aid. This included conferment of legal status on Lok Adalats and enforcement of their decisions as if they are decrees passed by courts. The proposal is being studied and a decision will be taken soon.

#### **Bargi Hadro Electric Project**

3330. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bargi Hydro Electric Project (2×45 MW) has been pending with CEA/CWS for clearance since 1982 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearance of the same ; and

(c) the time by which the project is expected to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). The project report in respect of the power component of the Bargi multi-purpose Project (2×45 MW) was received in the Central Electricity Authority (C.E.A.) in October, 1982 and has been examined ; it could, however, be processed further in the C.E.A. only after the irrigation component is cleared.

#### **Utilisation of full Potential of Ganga Water for Generating Hydro-Power**

3331. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether ten thousand mega-watts of electricity can be generated by making use of Ganga water ;

(b) the reasons for not utilising the full potential of Ganga water for generating hydro-power ;

(c) whether hydro-power can be generated from the point of confluence of Bhagirathi and Alakananda upto the sea at Calcutta ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (d). The hydro-electric potential of the Alakananda, the Bhagirathi and the main Ganga below the confluence of the Alakananda and the Bhagirathi at Dev Prayag has been tentatively estimated at 2208 MW, 1414 MW and 1525 MW respectively (total 5147 MW) at 60% load factor.

The hydro-electric potential is being developed keeping in view factors such as the availability of financial resources, the anticipated power demand in the Region, techno-economic feasibility and gestation periods of individual projects and the irrigation and flood control benefits, if any, expected to be derived. In addition to three hydro-electric projects, namely, Maneri Bhal Stage I, Garhwal-Rishikesh-Chilla and Ganga Canals (with a total installed capacity of 279.2 MW), which are in operation; four hydro-electric projects with a total installed capacity of 2104 MW are under construction/have been sanctioned by the Planning Commission.

#### **Post Offices/T/Distance/Kilometre**

3332. SHRI K. RAM CHANDRA REDDY will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/ be pleased to state :

(a) whether 50 percent of the villages and habitations in the country are without post offices ;

(b) whether there is a ban on locating post offices in villages ;