

T.V. Centre at Varanasi

985. SHRI ZAINUL BASHEER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) is there any proposal to establish T.V. Centre at Varanasi;

(b) if so, when is it expected to operate; and

(c) what is the details of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Setting up of a TV Relay Centre at Varanasi is one of the approved schemes for the expansion of TV services.

(b) The Relay Centre is expected to come up in 1984-85.

(c) A site for the Relay Centre has been selected.

Drilling for Oil and Gas in Tripura in Collaboration with USSR

986. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement for drilling oil and gas in the highly prospective region of Tripura has been reached between India and USSR as reported in the "Economic Times" Bombay Edition dated 23rd February, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of leader and other experts of USSR team who will be visiting India in the near future for drilling well in the area;

(c) the estimated depth of the well, the expenditure to be incurred thereon, the expected annual oil production and the expenses to be paid to USSR Government in lump sum or in instalments; and

(d) the reasons for entering into contract only with USSR and not with other Western countries and U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VIRENDRA PATIL): (a) ONGC has signed a contract with M/s. Technoexport, Moscow for drilling of one well in Tripura.

(b) The names have not yet been indicated. The Russian team will comprise of 25 personnel. But there will also be Indians forming part of the drilling crew.

(c) The Well is expected to be drilled to 5000 metres and the estimated cost is Rs. 4.5 crores. This being an exploration well, it is not possible to say whether there will be a hydrocarbon find, much less, what the annual oil production would be. Regarding expenses to be paid to Technoexport, these are matters which are normally kept confidential.

(d) Drilling for exploration of oil in Tripura is only a part of an agreement between India and USSR for economic, trade, scientific and technical collaboration signed on 14-3-79. The USSR side have drilled a number wells in difficult down hole conditions in Bangladesh and further the cost of Soviet services where available, has usually been found to be far below the cost of obtaining such services from Western countries.

National Perspective for Water Resources Development

987. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Irrigation and Central Water Commission have drawn up a National Perspective for Water Resources Development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what special attention has been given to Backward and under-developed areas and drought-prone Districts; and