

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to start ancillary units around the Krishna-Godavari Basin area; and

(b) if so, the time by which these units will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). The setting up of hydrocarbon based units around the Krishna-Godavari basins would be considered at an appropriate time when commercial reserves of hydrocarbon are established in this basin.

Commencement of Commercial Production at Krishna-Godavari Basin

6391. SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether more funds have been allocated for the Bombay High and Assam for further exploration during this year's Budget;

(b) the reasons why the same amount has not been granted for the Krishna-Godavari Basin for further exploration work;

(c) whether the ONGC spokesmen has indicated in the newspapers that the commercial production at Krishna-Godavari Basin would start soon; and

(d) if so, the date by which the commercial production would start ?

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

(b) The annual budget allocation for a basin is related to the physical programme of work such as exploratory surveys, exploratory drilling etc. to be undertaken during a year.

(c) and (d). The exact date of commencement of production of crude oil and gas from

the Krishna-Godavari Basin cannot be indicated at this stage.

Upgradation of Post Offices

6392. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the upgradation of some Post Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such Post Offices upgraded in the Sixth Five Year Plan period, year-wise in different States and Union Territories;

(c) the number of Post Offices upgraded in Keonjhar district of Orissa in the above Plan period; and

(d) the details thereof ?

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

(b) The required information is being collected and will be laid at the table of the House in due course.

(c) and (d). Five Branch Post Offices named below were upgraded in Keonjhar district of Orissa during the 6th Five Year Plan.

- (1) Kuntipal
- (2) Kesudurapal
- (3) Dhanurjaypur
- (4) Dhananjaypur
- (5) Machhagarh.

Decline in the Production of Essential Drugs in the Units of M/s. E. Merck (I) Ltd.

6393. SHRI DEBI GHOSAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of some essen-