

ing the registered number of a voter in the electoral roll and the polling booth where he may have to cast his vote along with the names and symbols of candidates which should be made available to all voters, supply of posters and publicity material and the supply of petrol coupons.

(c) These proposals are under examination.

Availability of oil and Natural Gas in the Naga Thrust Region

*495. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists highly promising structures with potential availability of oil and Natural Gas in the region called 'Naga Thrust'; and

(b) if so, the steps to accelerate the drilling operations in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV): (a) Yes Sir. Oil on some structures such as Digboi, Geleki and Borholla—along the 'Naga Thrust' line in the Eastern Region, has already been found. A number of other promising structures have also been delineated for exploratory drilling.

(b) In order to intensify the exploration work, the number of drilling rigs deployed by the ONGC in the Eastern region is being increased from 9 in 1978-79 to 14 in 1979-80 and 17 in 1982-83.

Broadcast of Regional News Bulletin of Punjabi from Rohtak

*498. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional news bulletin of Punjabi is broadcast only from Jullundur and Chandigarh and not from Rohtak; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the reasons for ignoring the 40 per cent Punjabi news listeners of Haryana and Delhi;

(c) whether he is considering a proposal for the broadcasting of Punjabi Regional News bulletin at 6-10 P.M. from Rohtak also as the transmitter at Jullundur is weak and these news can only be listened from Rohtak; and

(d) if this bulletin is continued from Rohtak also what extra expenditure has to be borne by AIR ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d). A.I.R. Rohtak broadcasts the regional news bulletin only in Hindi because Hindi is the main language of the area covered by that Station. The Punjabi-speaking population of Haryana and Delhi who, as per the 1971 Census Report number 8.34 per cent and 13.25 per cent respectively, can listen to the Regional Punjabi news bulletins relayed from Jullundur because they come well within the first-rate listening range of its 50 KW medium wave transmitter. It is not proposed to relay the Punjabi regional news bulletin from A.I.R. Rohtak because of its other programme commitments.

Naptha Jhakari Hydel Project and Kol Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh

*499. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have approved Naptha Jhakari Hydel Project and Kol Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) at what cost each project is likely to be constructed and what would be the Central and State's contribution to each of the projects, separately;

(d) when the work will start on these projects and in how many phases the work will be completed; and

(e) when both the projects will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e). At a meeting held on 5-2-1979 with the Chief Ministers and Power Ministers of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, it was decided in principle to take-up the execution of Naptha Jhakari and Kol Dam Project, subject to finalisation of the estimates, techno-economic clearance, financial allocations, etc.

Doubling output of alloy and special steel

*500. SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) action taken on the suggestion of the Working Group that the alloy and special steel sector should double its output to meet the growing demand;

(b) whether the electric arc furnace sector has diversified its production from mild steel pencil ingots; and