

prospects in various geological plays available in the area. Although most of the wells could be drilled down to the objective depths, a few wells had to be abandoned due to severe down-hole problems encountered before reaching the objective depths. No commercial hydrocarbon prospects, however, could be established in any of the wells. Despite various geoscientific studies carried out by a firm of international repute, no hydrocarbons were discovered. OIL has already surrendered its petroleum exploration licence in the State of Orissa and North East Coast in Bay of Bengal. Nine blocks are proposed to be offered in offshore Mahanadi & North East Coast (NEC) area including four blocks in deep water areas under New Exploration Licencing Policy.

[*Translation*]

**Intensive Development in Insurgency
affected States**

3772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had given directions to State Governments to have co-ordination in matters of intensive development, road construction and providing communication facilities in terrorist and naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the scheme to be formulated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar. Government of Bihar has been advised to speed up their socio-economic programmes.

[*English*]

Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi

3773. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government purpose to establish a memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Washington DC; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Memorial is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Embassy of India, Washington is working towards it.

(b) The architecture of the memorial is required to be approved by the concerned statutory bodies in Washington. Work for the completion of the memorial will be undertaken thereafter. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate any definite time frame in this regard at present.

New Delhi Municipal Council

3774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council has not sent any electricity and water bills during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NDMC has sent Electricity and Water bills in lump sum and also charged 3% surcharge on the arrears;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether NDMC have received a large number of requests to accept the bill with surcharge in installments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of the NDMC?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There was a gap of about seven months from September, 1996 to March, 1997 when NDMC could not send bills to the consumers because the contract awarded to a private contractor for preparation of electricity and water bills had to be rescinded on account of certain irregularities and it took NDMC some time to set up an in-house computer system for the purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The surcharge of 3% is levied only when the consumer defaults in making full payment against an earlier bill.