

(vii) Need to resume offshore and onshore oil drilling operations in West Bengal Basin

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, A few years ago, oil drilling operations, both off-shore and on-shore, were undertaken in West Bengal basin, but these were abandoned as not having been found "commercially viable to be exploded on a large scale." According to some experienced geologists, West Bengal is virtually floating on oil, which remained untapped. According to these experts, the giant petroleum reserve in the carbonate reservoir in West Bengal and adjoining off-shore of Bay of Bengal was discovered in 1984. Off-shore data on this were acquired by the Natonos group of oil companies of the USA and on-shore data of the Southern part by a Soviet team. The study revealed the presence of porous oil bearing carbonate rocks at a depth of 5,000 meters-being of about 60 million years old. These rock layers are oil-bearing along a 10 KM wide, North East, South-West alignment through the districts of South 24-Parganas and Nadia up to the Indo-Bangladesh international border. The promising area is within 600 metres East of the well-drilled by the ONGC near Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas. I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government of India to exploit this huge oil reserve which is capable of making India a leading oil exporting country of the world.

(viii) Need to replace old Telephone Exchange in Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh with Electronic telephone exchange

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMAL VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an urgent matter of public importance.

There is an old telephone exchange in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh where telephone always remain out of order. Electronic exchanges have been set up even in some big villages. Therefore, I would request that Electronic exchange should be set up in Seoni city and also in all the big villages of Seoni districts. From the point of view of the hon. Minister's announcement to the effect that all villages will have tele-communication facility by the year 1975 the department does not have the adequate equipment. Therefore, I would say that with a view to fulfilling this objective, new industries for the manufacture of telecom equipment should be set up in Seoni which is a tribal dominated area and also a no-industry district. This will also help in fulfilling the needs of the eight other adjacent districts without incurring additional expenditure on transportation.

13.07 hrs

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1991-92-CONT'D**

Ministry of Defence

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 16 to 22 relating to the Ministry of Defence, for which eight hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes, indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A List showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put on the Notice Board shortly. In case any member