

are making efforts to check such complaints in future.

MR. SPEAKER: We can also show the numbers.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: One minutes . I am speaking. Why can't you do it properly ? In that billing the number should be shown as is done in other countries also. Whatever you may connect it is numbered on the bill. Here it is only a local call and you are not able to pinpoint.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: It is done in the telephones under electronic exchanges and not in others.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: The hon. Minister has said that this facility is being provided in district headquarters on the priority basis. I would like to know whether S.T.D. facility will be provided in big industrial cities, such as Korba, which lies in my constituency. It is surprising that even though a public sector company has paid huge sum of money to the telecommunications department, it has not been connected with S.T.D. facility, though that place has vast resources of coal and produces maximum electricity. Whether any efforts are being made in this regard, because the officials have to travel to Delhi by air for negotiations, due to the non-availability of S.T.D. facility. They are under acute pressure on account of it. Whether any arrangement is being made in this regard?
(Interruptions)

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH: This is true. I will look into your complaint.

[*English*]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: The priority in the 7th Plan is to connect district headquarters with State capitals. As regards STD we have given so far more than 700

places Korba, being an important place in Madhya Pradesh needs STD facility, but on the basis of the priority accorded during 7th Plan, and the equipment availability as well as the technical feasibility, we are providing STD facilities. The industrial towns and other important places have priority, but as the equipment is not available to connect all the district headquarters, we are only connecting district headquarters on the route from one main point to another where it is technically feasible.

Setting up Tidal Power Generation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

*725. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any places along the East Coast of Andhra Pradesh have been found suitable for setting up power projects to generate power from tidal waves;

(b) if so, the names of these places; and

(c) the steps proposed to generate power from tidal waves at these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The possibilities of harnessing tidal energy for power generation in the country have so far been identified only in Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay on the West Coast in Gujarat and the Delta of Ganga in Sunderbans in West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Sir, in the East Coast along Andhra Pradesh, several times cyclone and tidal waves are occurring. In fact, when we examine the incidence of cyclone and tidal waves over a long period of time, it is found that several times it has occurred in the East Coast near Machhalipatnam and Delta of Krishna river. I would like to know whether the Government will make an in-depth study of the possibilities of generating energy from

the tidal waves present in the East Coast along Andhra Pradesh near Machhalipatnam and Krishna Delta.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: The tidal variations of Andhra Pradesh coast are reported to be small and cannot be economically harnessed with the present day technology. The Government is for the present concentrating only on the Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay, but here that is not economically feasible. A survey has been made and CEA has also examined it, but they found it economically not viable and, therefore, that is not being considered.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: On account of the depletion of coal reserves and resistance to the atomic power plants from the people in spite of their being sanctioned by the Central Government, we must seriously think of tidal energy, which does not cost much. The Minister has said that it is not economically viable in this area. Will the Government take necessary steps to set up a power plant on a small scale to utilize the tidal energy in this area?

SHRI KALPANATH RAI: The Government will look into it and again order a survey whether it is feasible or not.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: My Hon. Friend has posed a very important question; whether the Minister has fixed the criterion on his own or he has taken the help of the National Remote Sensing Research Laboratory of Hyderabad, because Dr. Chokkalingam, the then Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has also prepared a project report based on the East-coast and Tamil Nadu. So, I would like to know what information he has gathered and from which Ministry. I would like to know the detailed project report. In the low temperature carbonisation plant which is using the chemical solvents as media for the production of tidal wave, the cost of production of 1 K.W. of electricity by this process is more than that involved in the thermal plant and the atomic power plant. So, will the Minister take the help of the geologists to delineate the zone of formation

in offshore and intercontinental shelf and then come to the conclusion that Dr. Chokkalingam's project report is obsolete and that he has incorporated new design and parameters. I would like to know what is the project report of Dr. Chokkalingam and whether he will delineate the zone of formation in off-shore.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sir, a potential of the order of 8000 to 9000 M. W. has been identified by the UNDP experts in 1975 at three locations in the country. Of this about 7000 M.W was in the gulf of Cambay in Gujarat and 1000 M.W. in the Kutch. The additional potential for very small scheme was identified in Sunderban. I have already told you that again the survey can be done and the experts can be sent.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Why don't you take cognizance of Dr. Chokkalingam's project Report who was the pioneer not only in our country but throughout the globe? I would like to know whether our scientists can be involved and whether the NRSRL can be involved to delineate the zone of formation.

SHRI KALPANATH RAI: I have told you that a survey will be ordered again and the expert opinion will be taken. If it is found economically viable then we will take into consideration your suggestion.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, in the recent past, I read an article in the newspaper that a foreign company has come forward and approached the Ministry of Energy with a proposal that they are prepared to generate tidal energy with no investment from Government of India. i.e. with their own investment and supply the power at the rate at which now the Government is supplying to various consumers. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether they have considered this proposal or if not what are the defects in the proposal.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Sir, such a proposal has not come to us and the moment it will be available we will examine it.