

(c) whether any new projects have been approved; and

(d) by what time these projects are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) An outlay of Rs. 100 crores for the VIII Plan as prosoed by the Coconut Development Board has been approved.

(b) The entire outlay is for plan programmes.

(c) and (d). An outlay of Rs. 9 crores has been approved for the first year of Eighth Plan (1992-93) and programmes launched. No new scheme has been approved.

Panel of Experts on Oil Exploration

***447. SHRI SHRAVN KUMAR PATEL:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panel of Experts on Oil Exploration appointed to examine the issues regarding boosting crude exploration and production and reducing imports has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the panel; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) No such 'Panel of Experts' has been appointed.

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

Committee on Agricultural Marketing

***448. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Powered Committee on Agricultural Marketing has recommended to the union Government to review their decision to transfer the Central Schemes for development of markets to the States;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to review the decision; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) In their Interim Report, the High Power Committee on Agricultural Marketing has recommeded that the decision of Government to transfer the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Markets to the States should be reviewed.

(b) and (c). As the decision to transfer this Scheme to the State Sector has been taken by the National Development Council on the basis of a recommendation to that effect made by a Committee of the National Development Council it is not proposed to review the above decision.

Loss to Agricultural Sector

***449. SHRI SOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to the agricultural sector due to adverse terms of trade during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any steps to rectify this imbalance in trade:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (d). The of prices received and prices paid by the agricultural sector is a widely used measure of the terms of trade. There has been a rise in the index of the terms of trade (Base 1979-80=100) from 96.0 in 1989-90 to 98.2 in 1990-91 and 102.8 1991-92, suggesting thereby the improvement in the terms of trade during the last three years. While recommending minimum support the last three years. While recommending minimum support prices, the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) takes into account, among other things, the changes in terms of trade between agricultural and-a agricultural sectors.

[*Translation*]

Fire in Ongc Department

4455. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of property suffered by the Government due to the fire accident in the Department of Construction and Maintenance of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (O.N.G.C.) during May, 1992 in Makarpura near Vadodara;

(b) whether investigation report in connection with this accident has been received; and

(c) if so, the drawbacks found in it and the action being taken by the Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) It is estimated that property worth rupees five to seven lakhs was lost in the fire accident.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transfer of Various Organisations to Gail

4456. MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROKEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil & Natural Gas commission has taken any action regarding transfer of various profit earning gas organisations to Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the Justification thereof and the number of such gas organisations transferred so far to GAIL along with their movable and immovable properties;

(c) whether there is wide spread resentment among the employees of the Commission against this action and they have protested against this transfer; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) and (b). Gas marketing functions and related assets have been transferred to GAIL, in pursuance of a policy decision by the Government in 1984 to establish a separate agency for processing, transporting and marketing natural gas.

(c) and (d). Various representations