

on extent of 3.032 line Kms. in the off shore area by the private contractors. Five wells have also been drilled by ONGC and the total metreage of drilling is 35,191 M in the Bengal off shore.

The number of structures in Bengal off-shore drilled is six and the number of structures where the prospect of hydro-carbon found, is nil. That is why, the activities have been stopped. Mr. Kingston had given some suggestions in this regard. According to him, the existing data is to be pre-processed; new data is to be acquired, and no drilling is to be taken up in the next three years. This was the recommendation made by Mr. Kingston.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : There has been an alarming reduction in crude oil production from 1996-97. According to a statement made by the Chairman, ONGC recently, in 1996-97 the production is estimated at 29 million metric tonnes against the revised target of 30 million metric tonnes or so. He said that in 1997-98, the production would be even lower at 27 million metric tonnes. The estimates for the Ninth Plan are estimated at 180.82 million metric tonnes. We have got a statement from an expert, Shri K. Narayana. He says that the total production that can be expected out of ONGC oil fields during the five years of the Ninth Plan will be as low as 119 million metric tonnes as against the targeted 180 million metric tonnes. This reduction, according to experts, is mainly due to reduction in the production in the production at Bombay High because the recovery rate in Bombay High is 20 per cent as against 30-32 per cent. Therefore, there is a need for us to do certain things to remedy the situation on an urgent basis. Therefore, I would like to know what is it that the Government proposes to do to improve the recovery rate from Bombay High fields.

Secondly, in the matter of new oil fields, many times, tenders have been issued but we find that not much progress has been made in the matter of awarding new oil fields, even proven oil fields to private parties to the public sector. I would like the Minister to state the position in the matter of recovery and the award of new oil-fields.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As mentioned by the hon. Member, an Experts Committee headed by Shri Narayan has been appointed and its recommendations will be examined after the report is submitted. Six development schemes at a total cost of approximately Rs. 2,000 crore have been sanctioned during 1995-96 and the work is in progress. We have launched an accelerated exploration programme at a cost of Rs. 6,500 crore. Thirty-five exploration blocks have been already awarded to private parties and 30 discovered fields have been awarded to the private parties and the works are in progress. We expect to have the crude oil production from joint venture partners in 1996-97 at 1.5 metric million tonnes and in 1997-98, two million metric tonnes. Thrust will be given to the oil exploration from the

existing fields by adopting new technology. Less attractive and marginal fields are also being put into production mostly on a collective basis. Acquiring of foreign acreage is in progress.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : The hon. Minister has stated in his answer about the steps to achieve the revised targets, about the drilling of additional long drift side track wells, drainhole drilling and redistribution of water injection profile in Western off-shore. I would like to know the exact specific area where these activities are being carried out and whether the Ministry or the Government propose to drill and carry out other activities in the Kutch region or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, we have launced six new schemes : one to develop B-119/121 Structure, one more for B-55 Structure and another for B-173 (a) Structure and yet another in the Heera Phase-III in the Western off-shore and application of insitu combustion technology at Balol and at Santhal Phase-II.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Siva, you have been trying for the last two days.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : For the last four days.

MR. SPEAKER : Four days ? It is a very lucky day today ! For the last four days, he has been raising his hand.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, this is a very simple question. Other than the reason stated for the fluctuation in the crude oil production, I would like to know whether the Ministry has got any specific plans to keep the target in the ascending order.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have already said that it is going to be in the ascending order. We are having a lot of accelerated programmes. At the same time, as I have already answered, from 1991 to 1993 it was in the declining order; from 1993 to 1996 it was in the ascending order and now it is in the declining stage. We are having a cautious approach in our exploration and development. Definitely, it will be in the ascending order hereafter.

Common Minimum National Action Plan

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*165. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRIMATI SARDA TADIPARTHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised a National Action Plan based on the suggestions received during the Chief Ministers Conference on Power, held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be declared and

the extent to which the power shortage in the country is likely to be reduced:

(d) whether the drafted plan has been forwarded to the State Governments for implementation in a time bound manner; and

(e) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Based on the intensive discussions with the State Governments and Chief Minister's Conference held in October, 1996 and December, 1996, a Common Minimum National Action Plan on Power had been finalised and adopted for implementation.

(b) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the house.

Statement

(b) to (e) The action Plan, inter-alia, seeks to finalise National Energy Policy, set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, rationalise retail tariffs, facilitate autonomy of the State Electricity Boards and improve the management practices of these Boards, encourage improvement in physical parameters, encourage setting up of cogeneration/captive power plants, give high priority for hydro projects and lay emphasis on investments in the North Eastern Region, finalise allocation of liquid fuels, develop mega power projects at pitheads and set up washeries.

The implementation of the Common Minimum National Action Plan would make investments in the power sector attractive and improve performance of public sector utilities and enable them to generate internal resources for investments. The investments in capacity addition, systems improvement through improved productivity of existing assets etc., would help in reducing the power shortages in the country

The Common Minimum National Action Plan has been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territories on 31.12.1996 for its implementation in a time bound manner. The response from the State Governments has been encouraging and many of them have initiated action towards its implementation.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total installed capacity in Andhra Pradesh and also the projects that are pending execution and when they are going to clear the Simhadri Project.

MR. SPEAKER : A question should be like this – very straight.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : Yes, it is straight.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, we do not have the latest figure for the installed capacity in Andhra Pradesh. For the period up to 31.3.1996, it was 2655.94 MW for hydro and 2551.50 for thermal and NIL for nuclear power. The total comes to 5207.44 MW.

The hon. Member has asked about the power supply position in Andhra Pradesh. I think, the availability of power is 29,367 MW against a requirement of 36790 MW in Andhra Pradesh. There is a shortage of 20.2 per cent as against the shortage of 9.2 per cent for the whole of India.

Regarding the Simhadri Project, I would like to say that the PIB has cleared the project. Shortly, we are going to send it to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Regarding the remaining projects, . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Regarding the remaining projects, I think, you can give the details to him separately.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know the status of the Energy Policy and also the steps taken by the Ministry to meet the power crisis, especially in Andhra Pradesh. As the Minister says that there is a shortage of more than 20 per cent, how are they going to meet it during this year ?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, the Energy Policy is one of the points under our Common Minimum National Action Plan. We are considering a national policy. Already, for this purpose, we have constituted a Committee with Shri Ranganatham, Member-Secretary, Planning Commission as the Chairman. There are nearly nine members from various Departments in this Committee because energy not only means power, but it also includes petroleum, coal, railways, transport and other things as well. That is why we have constituted a Committee.

In order to meet the shortages, we are maintaining short-term strategies and long-term strategies. We are promoting a number of initiatives. Recently, the Prime Minister two also convened meetings with all the Chief Ministers. There are short-term measures like inter-State and inter-regional exchange of power whereby if there is one region with surplus power and one region lacking in power, we link those lines so that power is transferred from one region to the other. Also, we are adopting the method of renovation and modernisation. We have taken up a massive research and development programme.

In the Ninth Plan we are giving more thrust for this. We are implementing the short gestation projects. Further, we are promoting more Naphtha-based projects. Already some Naphtha-based projects have been finalised. The

Government has taken a decision on this. We have sent a draft to all the States. We are asking for supply of adequate quantity of coal. We are taking up this matter with the Coordination Committee of the Ministers of Coal and Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you do not have to go on explaining everything.

MR. SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, power is the most important infrastructure. My question is on the Common Minimum National Action Plan for producing power. There are two elements on which I would like to put my question. One is whether the Government's Common Plan includes the production of energy by using nuclear technology and non-renewable sources of energy. Even in nuclear technology, are they going to make use of the fast breeder technology and the fusion technology?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, as regards the nuclear technology, it is dealt by my colleague, Shri Alagh. I think Shri Alagh has categorically answered the earlier Question which was addressed to the Prime Minister. We are meeting the requirement through non-conventional energy sources also for which also there is a separate Ministry. Through wind energy we have achieved one-third megawatts of power. This is also included in the Common Minimum Action Plan.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Sir, the former Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan. Singh, recently stated that due to lack of public investment in the generation of electricity, a gap has been created between demand and supply and this has posed a lot of problems. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is withdrawing from the field of generation of electricity in coming years? It is my simple question.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : No. The Government is not withdrawing from the generation of electricity.

Disposal of Nuclear Waste

*166. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any long-term plans for the disposal of nuclear low-level radio-active waste generated in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether arrangements have been made with any foreign country for disposal of nuclear waste; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Processes, technologies and equipment have been indigenously developed for treatment, conditioning, handling, packaging and disposal of low level radioactive wastes generated in India. Plants have been set up and are operated successfully for this purpose as per the guidelines and approvals given by the regulatory authority namely the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the reply given by Hon'ble Minister is correct, I would like to say that on one hand, fish have been wiped out in the sea area adjoining Tarapur power station and Secondly, a large number of people of that area are falling ill. Similarly several complaints have been received in these last few years from Kota, Rajasthan where another nuclear power station is functioning. The Government all this while has maintained such a stern attitude that anyone trying to photograph these places was driven away. I would like to know that when so many arrangements have been made, why are these complaints being received from Tarapur and Kota?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the standards set by Atomic Energy Safety Regulatory Board, the samples of air, water and the effluents are regularly checked in each plant. In addition to this, there is no report of any problem being faced. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Such complaints have been made many a times. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have not asked whether he has got any report in this regard or not?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : This matter has been discussed in the House earlier also and I have given clarifications in this regard in the House but still if anyone has got any specific complaints regarding a particular incident. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Let us go to Tarapur tomorrow.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : All right Let us go. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You may give a reply in the house after reviewing the situation yourself. (Interruptions).