

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I will come to another question. Which technology India needs now in the field of nuclear power plant ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : All these things have to be examined from the point of view of the present situation in our country.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : We are fully conversant with the present technology in the world.

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear the Prime Minister.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Which type of technology India needs today ?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This question should be allowed. It is a very important matter. India's security is involved.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is a very important question . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Are you going to allow a full-fledged discussion on this ? Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to the hon. Minister ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As far as the very detailed and correct questions that Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi and Shri George Fernandes have raised are concerned, there can be no question of India going back on any one of its present legal structures, in other words, environmental conditions. . . (Interruptions). First let me explain. He has asked a very specific question. On the whole question of nuclear safeguards, we accept only safeguards at the level of the plant. We do not accept general safeguards, fullscope safeguards. As the Prime Minister has explained, we will be having Russian help in some plants. The law does provide for 49 per cent of non-governmental investment. That does not mean that safety regulations, environmental control and our treaty obligations under CTBT at all can be compromised in any way. As the hon. Member Shri George Fernandes is saying, it is true that in those countries which have very high level of energy availability and where there is surplus energy capacity. . . (Interruptions) Please let me finish. It is a very specific questions . . . (Interruptions) Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, let me explain.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are trying to mislead the House.

There can be no question of my misleading the House.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You have not even let me finish my sentence. Factually, in countries like China,

and in a number of newly industrialised countries, nuclear power is expanding. That is where there are large markets. There can be no question of India accepting outmoded technologies in the nuclear sector. For example, hon. Member Shri G.G. Swell asked the question of Russian Chernobyl. The technology that we are importing from Russia is a very different type of technology. It is a VVER technology which they are exporting to other countries, including China. Let there be complete clarity on this. There can be no question of importing third rate technologies. There can be no question of any of India's laws being changed. As far as the CTBT is concerned, there can be no compromise. It is the other way round. There are people in other countries who are interested in India's nuclear sector. It is in a sense their confidence in our nuclear sector. This does not compromise our position on CTBT at all. We have to be clear about what we want . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. Please do not complicate the matter any more.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I have given full clarification.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this. It is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You can certainly give a notice. I can see it. You can always give a notice.

Crude Oil Production

*164. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has revised the Government approved crude oil production target of 34.5 million tonne to 30.5 million tonne for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the revised target by ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) ONGC revised its projections of crude oil production from the level of 32.80 MMT to 31.092 MMT for the year 1996-97 due to the following reasons :-

(i) Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predictions.

- (ii) Constraints in operating conditions on account of law and order problems and insurgency in the North Eastern region.
- (iii) Frequent power shutdown in Eastern region affected artificial lift operations.
- (c) Steps to achieve the revised targets are :-
 - (i) In the case of Neelam and Gandhar fields, the plans to put up wells on temporary artificial lift through innovative techniques have been advanced.
As per the development plans, these were scheduled at a later date.
 - (ii) Aggressive workover operations and water/gas shutoff jobs with the help of expert agencies using state-of-art technology.
 - (iii) Drilling of additional Long drift side tracked wells in Western Offshore.
 - (iv) Drainhole drilling and Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) in Western offshore.
 - (v) Redistribution of water injection profile in Western offshore
 - (vi) Drilling of multilateral wells in Western offshore.
 - (vii) Application of innovative techniques to overcome well problems like scale removal/inhibition, Paraffin control through Magnetic Fluid Conditions (MFG).

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, the Annual Report of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas for the year 1995-96 says and I quote :

"In order to meet the rising demand of petroleum products, the Government has initiated a number of concrete steps both short term and long term to augment the production of crude oil in the country. The short term measures include early production systems, deepening of existing wells, enhanced work over efforts and adoption of improved technology. The long term measures include development of new fields and additional development of the existing fields. As a result of these measures, the declining trend in the crude oil production was arrested in the year 1993-94. The crude oil production during 1995-96 has been 35.193 million tonnes which is the highest level reached so far. ONGC has contributed 31.673 million tonnes and OIL's contribution has been 2.89 million tonnes during the year 1995-96."

On 13.11.96, it had been reported that domestic production is to be 30.8 million tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Asim Bala, will you ask the

question now, please ?

DR. ASIM BALA : It is also an evidence to show how the production is coming down.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to give any evidence. You have to ask the question only.

DR. ASIM BALA : I would like to know whether ONGC is responsible for this or not. I would also like to know why the output from Bombay High went down a year after the deliberate go-slow policy followed between 1991-94. Why has this go-slow policy been followed by the Government when our oil production is in demand and scarcity is also there ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, actually I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. Actually, decline of crude oil production is not a new phenomenon. In 1990-91, the production was in the order of 33.021 MMT. In 1991-92, it was in the order of 30.346 MMT. Suddenly, in 1992-93, the decline, had begun which was in the order of 26.95 MMT. The production has gone down from 33 MMT to 26.95 MMT. But, at the same time, from 1993-94, it is in the ascending order. In 1993-94, it was 27 MMT. In 1994-95, it was 32.23 MMT. In 1995-96, it was 35 MMT. Now, it is in the decline order. It is due to the high gas-oil ratio, several wells and due to the unexpected reservoir behaviour of Bombay High and Neelam oilfields; due to some constraints in the operating conditions on account of law and order problems in the North-East and due to frequent power shut down in the Eastern region which affected artificial lift operations.

DR. ASIM BALA : Why has a deliberate go-slow policy been followed by the Government ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is not a go-slow policy. We have inducted an accelerated programme also.

DR. ASIM BALA : In the case of the West Bengal, there are some old rigs in Ichapur in Nadia District of my constituency as also in Borol and other places in the North-Eastern Region, and Silchar, in Assam. In 1993-94, that rig had been withdrawn. Again, they are going to take it for operational purpose for the same region. Why has this rig been taken ? In regard to the previous rig, had the experiment or test been wrong ? Or, was it not in the proper form ? I would like to know why the Government is going to take that rig again.

Part (b) of my question is about Silchar in Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : About Assam, I think I will give a chance to somebody else from Assam. He may be able to put the question in a much better way.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In West Bengal off shore and on shore area, exploration has been done. Surveys have been conducted. 2-D Seismic surveys have been conducted to

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 cautions 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