

received. The proposal is under consideration. Arrangements have been made to start the earth work from Apta to Dasgaon (108 kms) as drought relief. Detailed Survey for the reach Dasgaon to Mangalore is also being taken up.

Irrigation Schemes for Fifth Plan by Andhra Pradesh

2087. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have suggested any new irrigation schemes for the State to be taken up during the Fifth Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the schemes suggested; and

(c) whether Centre has approved the schemes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Details of Fifth Plan irrigation programme in the States have not yet been finalised.

Output of Petroleum Based Fertilizer Plants

2088. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licensed output of all Petroleum based fertilizer plants including those that are now under construction; and

(b) what will be the share of F.C.I. in the above?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) About 23 lakh tonnes (in terms of nitrogen) as on the 1st January 1973.

(b) About 27 per cent.

Intensified Drive for Oil Exploration

2089. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between availability and the demand for petroleum products which was of the order of just under 12 million tonnes in 1970 is expected to increase to 36.5 million tonnes by 1980;

(b) whether this has necessitated an intensified drive for oil exploration in both on-shore and off-shore regions; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to launch such an intensified drive for oil exploration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Crude oil deficit in 1980 is estimated at around 37 million tonnes—assuming the current rate of production.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has drawn up a five year plan of operations (1973-74 to 1977-78) with a view to establishing additional recoverable reserves of 64 million tonnes of crude oil and development of annual production capacity of about 8 million tonnes of crude oil by 1977-78. Additionally, the ONGC is launching a programme for offshore drilling in the deep waters of the Gulf of Cambay, adjoining the Arabian Sea. Preparatory steps are in hand and the first well is expected to be spudded some time during this year. To accelerate the pace of exploration work in off-shore areas, the Government will also consider proposals for interested foreign companies on a "General Contract" type of arrangement. The ONGC will also continue to seek exploration ventures abroad.