

(b) the percentage of proposed allocation of the same in the eastern States ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). Allocation of funds for the fertilizer plants can be decided only after the Seventh Plan has been finalised by the Planning Commission. It is, therefore, difficult to indicate, at present, either the overall allocation for fertilizer plants or the specific percentage allocation for plants in eastern States, during the Seventh Plan period.

M/s Bengal Potteries Limited

2232. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government called a meeting of various Government Departments/representatives, West Bengal State Government representatives, representatives of all the unions and the management of Bengal Potteries and representatives of Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India and M.Ps of West Bengal for discussing the affairs of the Bengal Potteries soon after the last budget session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the proposals of the Government and the consensus of the non-official persons invited to the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken by Government since this meeting for resolving the crisis of the company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prospects of revival of the undertaking through a viability plan involving modernisation of the Crockery Unit and closure of the Insulator and Plaster of Paris Units was discussed. The consensus of opinion of the non-officials who participated in the meeting was that revival of the undertaking on the basis of viability plan considered by Government was not acceptable.

(c) A view as to the future disposition of the undertaking would be taken in the light of the findings of the various studies carried out for revival of the undertaking.

Drilling for gas or oil reserve in West Bengal

2233. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :

SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether international experts have further found in their survey, the possibility of gas and oil reserve in Gangetic basin of West Bengal and Bay of Bengal area including the Calcutta hinterland and Haldia;

(b) if so, which are those areas and the progress made by Oil and Natural Gas Commission to begin the drilling in those areas; and

(c) the places where Oil and Natural Gas Commission have engaged for drilling to find either gas or oil reserve in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). An assessment made in 1978 by a Soviet team indicated the deltaic plains of West Bengal as prospective for hydrocarbons.

ONGC have so far drilled well in West Bengal at Bodra, Bakultala, Galsi, Diamond Harbour, Radha, Abhay,