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Requisite action is taken on these representations.

Gas Find In Tripura

3468. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: SHRI AJOY BISWAS: SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as a result of exploration in Tripura, sources of Natural Gas have been discovered in the State:
- (b) if so, potential of the gas that will be available from Tripura, and
- (c) to what extent it will assist the industrial development of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The recoverable reserves of gas, as on 1.1.87 in Tripura has been estimated at 2825.7 million cubic metres.
- (c) Gas is presently being supplied to Tripura State Electricity Board for power generation and availability of 1 MMCMD of gas for: fertilizer plant has been indicated.

Setting up of Solar Energy Plants in Konkan Region

3469. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether solar energy plants need minimum investments as compared to investments needed for the plants generating other forms of energy;

- (b) if so, whether a backward region like Konkan region will be given priority in setting up solar energy plants; and
- (c) if so, when the work of setting up the plants will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The initial investment on solar power generating plants (both solar thermal and photovoltaic) is higher compared to conventional systems. But the operating costs are very low as there is no recurring fuel cost. Further there is little or no investment needed in transmission systems.

(b) and (c). Setting up of solar power plants needs consideration of atmospheric and other related parameters. The Konkan region along with other parts of the country is being surveyed to determine the technoeconomic feasibility of setting up such plants.

Assistance to Sugar Mills from Sugar Development Fund

3470. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation from Indian Sugar Mills Association and the Sugar Mills in the private sector seeking assistance to the sugar mills in the private sector from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF).
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.