

**Supply of Bombay High Gas to
Andhra Pradesh**

6897. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to take gas line from Bombay High to various States;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government requested to lay the gas line to any important centre in that State; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Satish Chandran Working Group did not find establishment of a fertilizer plant in Andhra Pradesh to be an optimum use of Bombay High/South Bassein gas and therefore, did not recommend another pipeline from these fields. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

**Investing money abroad for Fertiliser
Projects**

6898. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Government is investing money in fertilizer projects abroad; and

(b) if so, the countries in which the money is invested?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a)

and (b). Government of India have not invested any money in fertilizer projects abroad. However, a consortium of Indian fertilizer companies has agreed to make an equity investment upto US \$ 20 million in a phosphate fertilizer project in Senegal with a stipulation that 66000 tonnes of phosphatic acid (in terms of P2O5) will be supplied by Senegal to Indian companies annually.

**Exploration for oil in Ninpur and
Mahanadi**

6899. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration is being done in Ninpur and Mahanadi for oil; and

(b) if so, the results?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Exploration is being carried out in the Mahanadi Basin. However, both Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited have no information regarding a site called Ninpur.

(b) In offshore area of Mahanadi Basin in the Bay of Bengal, Oil India Limited completed aeromagnetic and seismic/geophysical surveys in 1978. A 3-well offshore exploration programme has been planned and is expected to be completed by 1980-81. The first well was drilled to a depth of 2740 metres but no hydrocarbons were found. The second well is under drilling.

OIL have already completed aeromagnetic survey of the onshore area of 6,800 sq. kms. and it is proposed to conduct seismic/geophysical surveys in 1980-81 and 1981-82.