

Head-Quarter of Central Region of Oil and Natural Gas Commission

1056. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that due to non-finalisation of the Headquarter of the Central Region of Oil and Natural Gas Commission the project work as well as the employees' interest are suffering;

(b) whether is it also a fact that some of Unions have approached to reorganise the Headquarter of the Central Region excluding Dehradun, Delhi and Calcutta Port Office and to make Calcutta as the Headquarter of the Central Region; and

(c) what steps the Oil and Natural Gas Commission authority has taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. ONGC Workmens' Association, Calcutta, and ONGC Workers Union, Agartala, approached ONGC Headquarters with the request to re-organise Central Region by creating a separate region consisting of Tripura, West Bengal and Andaman Nicobar islands with Calcutta as Headquarter.

(c) The matter has been considered recently by the Standing Committee of the Commission and further follow up action will be taken accordingly.

Gas-based fertiliser plants on the West Coast

1057. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the four gas-based fertilizer plants on the West Coast have been reopened for review; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). There is no proposal under Government's consideration to review the location of the four gas-based fertilizer plants to be set up on the West Coast.

The appointment of consultants for the construction of ammonia plants is to be finalised. After the new Government took office, it wanted to have a second look at the selection of consultant(s) for the ammonia plants. An Expert Committee was, therefore, set up to examine the relative merits of the bidders who had earlier submitted bids for this consultancy. The Committee's report has just been received.

Crisis in West Bengal Film Industry

1058. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that films made in West Bengal are facing serious crisis due to lack of proper avenue for releasing and they are victim of pernicious chain-release;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has proposed to the Central Government for enactment of a bill called "compulsory screening of W.B. Films Bill, 1979"; and

(c) whether the Central Government are considering any steps to save the Film Industry in Bengal from the clutches of the monopolist distributors and owners of the Cinema Halls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It appears that films made in West Bengal do not get adequate playing time in the theatres. Exhibition of films is a State subject and in order to secure playing time for films made

in West Bengal, the Government of West Bengal have proposed the enactment of a Bill called "The Compulsory Screening of West Bengal Films Bill, 1979" and moved the Central Government for clearance. With the enactment of this Bill, there would be a reservation of time for screening of West Bengal films.

Deterioration in the performance of power sector due to shortage of Aluminium

1059. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new factor threatens to bring about deterioration in the performance of the power sector in the country is the growing shortage of aluminium;

(b) whether it is also a fact that aluminium is crucial to the development of the power distribution network;

(c) whether the Hirakud Smelter of the Indian Aluminium Company has been totally shutdown because of 100 per cent power cut and its Belgaon Smelter has been subject to a 70 per cent cut; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the efforts of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The electro-chemical grade of aluminium is used for fabrication of conductors for overhead transmission and distribution lines including rural electrification works and also for underground cables and winding wires. As a substitute for copper the metal is also used in transformers and motors of smaller capacities and is crucial to the development of the power distribution network.

(c) The Indian Aluminium Co., has its Smelters at Hirakud in Orissa, Belgaon in Karnataka and Alwaye in

Kerala. While there has been no power cut in its Alwaye plant in Kerala, power cuts have been enforced in respect of its plants in Karnataka and Orissa. At Hirakud in Orissa 60 per cent demand cut has been enforced since September, 1979.

(d) The demand of E.C. Grade metal for the year 1979-80 was 2 lakh tonnes. Against this demand, the availability from indigenous production was about 1,03,000 tonnes and steps were taken to import the E.C. Grade metal from abroad to bridge the gap between the demand and supply from indigenous sources.

New Power Generation Capacity for Eastern Region

1060. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a massive programme for installing new power generating capacity in the power starved Eastern Region has been chalked out;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to entrust the responsibility of planning, erection and commissioning of these units to the National Thermal Power Corporation; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the programme of Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The programme for installing new generating capacity is a continuous exercise. The addition of generating capacity is based on the projected power demand in the State/Region. A programme to add a capacity of 3323 MW, comprising of 503 MW hydro and 2820 MW thermal has been taken up for the time frame 1980-85 in the Eastern Region. The project wise details of addition in the