

tented accommodation, free electricity, etc. There is no plan now to draw up any scheme for improving the condition of shot hole drilling employees only.

As regards the workers engaged by the contractors or cooperative societies, who are awarded job contracts for shot hole drilling, the responsibility of providing wages and other facilities is that of the contractor or cooperative society. ONGC ensures that such wages are paid in accordance with the statutory provisions.

D.A. to Employees of Public Sector Undertakings

1147. SHRI JANARDHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of Government to give parity in Dearness Allowance to the employees working in public sector undertakings with the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a policy decision to extend Industrial Dearness Allowance formula to the employees of public sector undertakings, under which Dearness Allowance to all employees increases at a uniform rate per point rise in All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.

[English]

Licences for Industrial Alcohol

1148. SHRI C. SIRNIVASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken over the powers to issue licences for starting industries with molasses as raw material from State Governments;

(b) the policy of Government for issuing licences for making industrial alcohol and rectified spirit from molasses;

(c) whether there is a great demand for molasses based industries in the country;

(d) how many applications have been received from Tamil Nadu for such licences; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) These powers already vest with the Central Government.

(b) Industrial approvals are granted keeping in view the demand and supply position, availability of molasses in the concerned State and other relevant factors.

(c) Sufficiently large capacities for molasses based industries have been approved keeping in view the demand position.

(d) and (e). During the years 1987 to 1989, 18 applications for grant of letters of intent for the manufacture of Industrial Alcohol/Rectified Spirit in the State of Tamil Nadu were received. Out of these, 11 applications have been approved and letters of intent granted to the concerned applicants. Rest of the 7 applications have been rejected.

Losses in State Electricity Boards

1149. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State Electricity Boards running in losses and the cumulative loss incurred by each Board as on date;

(b) the reasons for the losses and State-wise results of the steps taken so far to eliminate them;

(c) whether any comprehensive plan has been drawn to make the Boards financially viable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The estimated cumulative surplus/deficit of various State Electricity Boards by the end of 31st March, 1990 is given in Annexure.

(c) and (d). The main reasons for the losses incurred by the SEBs are, absence of equity component in the capital structure of the SEB, non-capitalisation of interest during construction of projects in the past, low

agriculture tariff, non-payment of RE subsidy by the State Governments, inadequate rate of depreciation for adequate generation of internal resources, payment of State Electricity duty, high T&D losses in the power system, high establishment cost due to overstaffing, large arrears in revenue collection, time and cost overrun in completion of projects, deficiencies in operation and maintenance practices, etc.

Steps taken to improve the performance of the SEBs include amendment to the statute making it obligatory on the Boards to earn return of 3% surplus on fixed assets, making theft of power a cognizable offence, implementation of centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation schemes for updating the performance of the thermal power stations, introduction of meritorious productivity reward scheme for improved performance of thermal power stations, etc.

As a result of timely measures taken by State Governments to restructure the loans of the SEBs, revise the tariff and release RE subsidy, etc., 5 State Electricity Boards have improved their financial performance.

STATEMENT

Cumulative Surplus/Deficit of the State Electricity Boards

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Electricity of Board</i>	<i>Estimated Cumulative surplus/loss at the end of 31.3.90</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	233.96
2.	Assam	-546.87
3.	Bihar	-328.53
4.	Gujarat	-336.34
5.	Haryana	-625.10
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-187.04

1	2	3
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA
8.	Karnataka	-133.70
9.	Kerala	-54.97
10.	Madhya Pradesh	335.56
11.	Maharashtra	186.60
12.	Meghalaya	-24.04
13.	Orissa	-98.91
14.	Punjab	-279.20
15.	Rajasthan	-444.11
16.	Tamil Nadu	348.24
17.	Uttar Pradesh	-1024.05
18.	West Bengal	-286.37

Oil drilling in North Gujarat by ONGC

1150. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas
Commission has prepared a plan to intro-
duce the latest technology in its drilling
operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ONGC had decided to
drill two horizontal wells at Balol and Lanwa
fields in North Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the present position in this
regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURU-
PADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Technologies that have been in-
ducted and are being introduced in ONGC's
drilling operations are:—

i) *Technology of drilling extended
reach wells:*

Drilling of wells with high angle of
deviation in order to increase
withdrawal of oil and gas from a
larger area.

ii) *Cluster Drilling:*

The technique involves drilling of