

a number of wells from the same location. This saves the land use and thus achieves reduction of cost on one hand and lesser impact on environment, particularly in forest areas, on the other.

iii) *Horizontal Drilling:*

In this technique wells are drilled with very high angle of deviation to penetrate the producing horizons parallel to their bedding plains. The technique is useful in obtaining production from thinly bedded and fractured reservoirs.

iv) *Application of systems for determining optimised drilling parameters:*

By optimising parameters for drilling bits a faster penetration is achieved. This reduces downtime, as well as per meter cost of drilling.

v) *Application of computers:*

Computer aided techniques are being increasingly used for analysing Downhole data for predicting pore-pressures of the formations and other activities. These put together provide means to effectively handle complications and hazardous conditions.

vi) *New generation tools and techniques:*

The latest emerging technologies and tools are being used. These are Downhole Motors, Measurement Well Drilling (MWD), new generation diamond

bits, polycrystalline diamond bits, and hybrid bits.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The feasibility studies for drilling horizontal wells in Balol and Lanwa fields have been completed by the Institute of Production Technology, Institute of Drilling Technology and Institute of Reservoir Studies.

Rail Link between Kudachi and Bagalkot (S.C. Rly.)

1151. SHRI S.T. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand for laying a new railway line from Kudachi to Bagalkot on South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sanction this project and when it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Nationalisation of Multi-National Drug Companies

1152. SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to nationalise all multi-national drug companies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration for Oil and Gas in Orissa

1153. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Orissa where exploration activities are being undertaken and the results achieved so far,

(b) whether Government propose to take up fresh areas for exploration of oil/gas in Orissa during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Oil India Limited (OIL) have conducted exploration activities in Orissa in the Mahanadi Basin onshore and offshore, and in the North East Coast offshore Basin adjacent to the Mahanadi Basin.

(b) and (c). Presence of hydrocarbons was not discovered in Mahanadi onshore. Although traces of hydrocarbons have been found in Mahanadi offshore and North-East Coast offshore, these have not proved to be commercially significant. OIL are having the offshore data acquired so far re-interpreted. Further exploratory work in the offshore will depend upon the results of such re-interpretation.

Incentives to Small Paper Mills

1154. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA:
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Small Paper Mills Association has urged Government for

a long term strategy for stimulating paper industry and a package of incentives as short term measures for revival and rejuvenating the fast deteriorating economic condition of the small paper mills in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any decision to provide any incentives to small paper mills in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take to provide relief to this industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). Government have been receiving representations from various Paper Industry Associations, including All India Small Paper Mills Association, suggesting measures for the growth of Paper Industry. These suggestions are kept in view by the Government while formulating policies for the Paper Industry from time to time. Some of the specific measures undertaken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) Small paper mills with capacity upto 24,000 tonnes per annum are charged excise duty at a concessional rate;

(ii) Large/medium/small paper mills using agro-residue and other non-conventional raw materials atleast upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates;

(iii) Paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from bagasse, raw jute and mesta is exempt from excise duty;

(iv) Import of wood pulp, wood chips, logs and waste paper has been allowed under OGL at a nominal or low rate of customs duty;