

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.  
SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During VIII Five Year Plan, ONGC proposes to drill 210 exploratory wells and carry out 73,000 LKM of 2-D and 3-D seismic surveys.

**Fire Accident in H.P.C.L.  
Bhubaneswar**

5802. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fire accident occurred in the office of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the details of the losses suffered;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.  
SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs.31,65,000/- approximately.

(c) and (d) According to HPC, three separate enquiries were conducted to investigate the incident. It has not been possible to determine the cause of the fire and no specific person/persons is responsible for the fire.

**Scheme for Utilisation of Natural Gas**

5803. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR  
RAWAT:  
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from State Governments for utilisation of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to give priority to certain areas allocation of gas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS (SHRI B.  
SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Requests have been received from time to time from State Governments for allocation of gas for different projects and they are considered keeping in view the availability and commitments made in the region.

(c) and (d). Priority is generally given to the Power, Fertilizer, Steel and Petrochemical Sectors, based on the imputed value of gas for these applications.

**Low Employment Elasticity**

5804. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employment elasticity in agricultural sector is very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to overcome this problem?