

(d) the stern measures being considered to reduce the losses and also to get profit from these Units; and

(e) the extent to which the measures taken have borne fruits ?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) :** (a) There has been steady improvement in the turnover of the operating units of the Corporation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the first ten months of the current financial year (April 1984 to January 1985), the Corporation's losses are less by 25.27% (provisional figures), as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the performance of the Corporation :

1. **Sindri Modernisation :** The equipment problems in Syn. Gas Compressor, Co-conversion Section and Revex Boxes in Air separation Unit are proposed to be attended to during the annual turn-around in May-June, 1985.

2. **Gorakhpur :** A phased programme for replacement of unserviceable equipment and machinery has been initiated.

3. **Ramagundam and Talchar :** (i) BHEL Specialists are being engaged for overcoming the problems of vibration in air-compressors and turbines, leakages in regenerators in air separation plant and frequent failure of boilers due to leakages on economiser, super heater and wall tubes; and (ii) Long-term measures required to remove the constraints in production have been identified based on the recommendations of a High Level Technical Committee. The Company has also submitted a proposal for an end-to-end survey of the plants.

(e) Remedial measures already taken have led to increase in production and the company has reduced losses by about Rs. 19 crores during the period April 1984 to January 1985 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

#### Shortage of Nitric Acid

1777. **SHRI B. V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have convened a high-level meeting to consider the difficulties being faced by chemical and drug units due to shortage of nitric acid; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the high-level meeting and the steps being taken to reduce the nitric acid shortage ?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) :** (a) and (b). The shortage of Nitric Acid is due to the partial disruption of production in one of the three Nitric Acid manufacturing units of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), Bombay. RCF have been advised to ensure that sufficient Nitric Acid is made available to meet the essential requirements of the priority Nitric Acid user industries by revising the production plan. They are making suitable arrangements accordingly to relieve the shortage. The position in this regard is being reviewed from time to time.

#### Search for Oil Reserves in North-Eastern Region

1778. **SHRI B. V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploratory drilling will be undertaken in 6.57 lakh meters through 165 wells by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission under a massive search for more oil reserves in the North-Eastern region during the Seventh Five Year plan;

(b) if so, whether this includes Commission's ambitious exploratory work forming parts of its 20 year long term conceptual Plan;

(c) if so, the main target of main exploratory drilling;

(d) whether the identified field surveys and exploratory drilling planned for the next five years are expected to generate enough prospects and add to already existing belts known to be bearing oil and gas structure; and

(e) if so, the plans that will be undertaken for massive research for oil reserves during 1985 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :** (a) to (d). The details of the exploratory programme to be undertaken by ONGC in the North-Eastern region during the Seventh Five Year Plan will be available only after the finalisation of the Seventh Plan.

(e) During the year 1985-86, the following programmes of exploration are envisaged

by the ONGC in Upper Assam, Nagaland and Cachar :

- (a) Geological Surveys (Party Years) 4  
 (b) Gravity Magnetic Surveys (Party Years) 1  
 (c) Seismic Surveys (Party Years) 12  
 (d) Exploratory drilling  
 (i) Metrage 64610  
 (ii) No. of wells 22

**Construction of new Post and Telegraph Offices in Rajnandgaon (M.P.)**

1779. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for constructing new Post Offices and Telegraph Offices in the district headquarters of Rajnandgaon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction of Post Offices is likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

**Use of mobile polling booths in Elections**

1780. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the February (1985) Assembly elections, mobile polling booths had to be arranged for the voters in the eastern embankment of the Kosi river in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether mobile polling booths in Bihar were an experiment and more such polling booths are proposed to be arranged in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c). The Election Commissions which has been consulted in the matter has informed that the required information is being collected from the State and that the exercise will take some more time. The information which the Election Commission will make available after completing such exercise will be laid on the Table of the House immediately after receipt of the same.

**Import of Paper and Newsprint**

1781. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of paper and newsprint in the country at present; and

(b) the total quantity of paper and newsprint imported during 1982, 1983 and 1984 and the value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Demand for paper and paper board by end of 1984-85 is estimated at 15.40 lakh tonnes and that of newsprint during 1984-85 at 3.85 lakh tonnes.

(b) The total quantity of paper and newsprint imported and the value thereof is as follows :

Year	White Printing Paper		Newsprint	
	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
1981-82	43,080	28.01	300,526	154.66
1982-83	5,766	3.74	200,012	108.94
1983-84	3,903	2.17	193,707	99.98
1984-85	Nil	Nil	193,325 (April Dec.)	111.61 (Prov)

Apart from the above, import of small quantity of newsprint and printing under REP and special varieties of paper takes place.

**Drilling in Cachar District of Assam**

1782. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rigs<sup>7</sup> operating in Cachar district of Assam;

(b) the target of drilling fixed by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Cachar district during 1982, 1983 and 1984;