

out to 5.6 per cent as against 5.5 per cent during 1983-84.

(b) to (d) The Government have been taking several measures to stimulate industrial production through appropriate changes in Industrial Licensing and Import policies, as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

(e) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages an annual average growth rate of 7 per cent for the industrial sector.

Review of Pricing Structure of Natural Gas

3357. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the price of gas for thermal power generation has been fixed at Rs.1800 per 1,000 cubic metres ;

(b) whether the Department of Coal has approached the Ministry of Petroleum to reconsider its decision ;

(c) if so, whether the official-level committee is reviewing the entire pricing structure of natural gas in view of its wider use in the near future to feed the proposed gas-based fertilizer plants and power stations ; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for rejection of the proposal made by the Department of Power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) & (c) The issue of pricing of gas for various uses all over the country is under consideration of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bids for Off-shore Oil Exploration.

3358. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to invite bids from international oil companies for off-shore oil exploration :

(b) if so, whether Government are preparing a package for the oil companies which would be fair, just and equitable to both partners in the search for oil ;

(c) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard will be taken ; and

(d) how many foreign firms have shown interest in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (d) The policy for making a fresh offer of areas to foreign companies for oil exploration in India is at present under review. Details are yet to be finalised,

A number of foreign companies have indicated their interest in the form of enquiries.

Haldia Petro Chemical Complex

3359. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have information about some foreign firms offering technical collaboration for the Haldia Petrochemical complex in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the terms of such foreign collaborations ;

(d) the progress in the matter ;

(e) the proposed holding pattern of the Haldia Petrochemical complex ; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (f) There is no formal application for technical collaboration for the Haldia Petrochemical Complex from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. However, the Government of West Bengal have reported that the Corporation propose to have technical collaboration with M/s. Linde AG of West Germany and M/s. Chemtex of USA.

An understanding has been reached between the Corporation and Goenkas for the setting up of this project on the standard joint sector pattern.