

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is considering to abolish the posts of professionals in the Bureau of Public Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and objectives in view; and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) and (b). A Group of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary had been constituted to review all plan and Non-Plan expenditure incurred by various Ministries/Departments on various activities. The Group have examined the expenditure pattern of Ministries/Departments, including Bureau of Public Enterprises, with a view to effecting economy. The Government have not yet taken a decision in the matter.

Progress of Drilling Work undertaken by ONGC

1384. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made and results achieved in the areas already being explored by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) in which of these areas drilling work is in progress; and

(c) whether any signs of viability of these drilling areas for commercial exploration are in sight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) During the VI Plan the ONGC drilled 335 exploratory wells and established 894 million tonnes of geological reserves of oil and oil equivalent of gas.

(b) Exploratory drilling is in progress in the following basins :

1. Cambay
2. Kutch
3. Rajasthan

4. Upper Assam
 5. Assam Arakan fold belt
 6. West Bengal
 7. Krishna-Godavari
 8. Cauvery
 9. Andaman and
 10. Western Offshore.
- (c) Yes, Sir.

Change in Pricing Policy for Energy Sector

1385. DR. B.H. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested a drastic change in the pricing policy for the energy sector; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the integrated pricing policy for the energy sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Planning Commission, in their draft Seventh Plan document, have referred to the need for formulation of an integrated energy pricing structure so as to reflect not only the true costs of energy to the economy but also help ensure the financial viability of the energy industries.

Thermal Power Projects Under Construction in Madhya Pradesh

1386. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Thermal Power Projects working at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of new thermal power projects which are to be set up in the country in the coming years and the number of projects under construction; and

(c) the number and names of Thermal Power Projects which are under construction in Madhya Pradesh and the time by which these projects will be completed?