

Steps to Prevent Flaring Up of Natural Gas

78. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state : (a) whether Government have estimated the quantum of natural gas being flared up at different places in India and if so, the details thereof indicating reasons therefor;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to prevent flare up;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of natural gas is expected to become double the existing production by the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the price of natural gas downward for the consumers and if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b) In 1985-86, an estimated quantity of about 3120 million cubic metres of gas was flared. Gas flaring occurs due to various reasons and the following steps are being taken to reduce this :

- Additional compression facilities are being provided in the Western Offshore region.
- Plans are being made for getting small quantities of associated natural gas, which is being flared in isolated fields in Gujarat region.
- In the Eastern region, ONGC and OIL have committed gas to new consumers.
- GAIL have also undertaken a study on connecting various oil fields in Assam by a network of pipelines to form a grid.

— Fall back consumers are being developed to utilise gas when regular consumers fail to lift committed quantities.

(c) It is expected that by the end of the Seventh Plan the production of natural gas would be about 40 MMCMD.

(d) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Difficulty in Running Rice Mills in Punjab

79. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Association of Rice Mill Owners in Punjab has expressed its inability to run its mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A representation has been received from the Punjab Rice Millers Association stating that they are suffering losses on account of low rates of paddy milling and driage and that they might be compelled to close down their operations.

(b) The rates for custom milling of paddy and driage are settled by the public procuring agencies, including the Food Corporation of India, directly with the millers according to their best commercial judgement.

[*English*]

Industries Working to less than 50 per cent Capacity

80. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :