

Long-range plan for petrochemicals

1213. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any long-range plan has been drawn up for meeting the growing demands for petrochemicals in the country both in the private and public sectors; and

(b) if so, its broad outlines and the targets set down for the manufacture and marketing of the various products ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) and (b) A long-term perspective plan for development of petrochemicals industry has been prepared by a High Level Committee. This Committee has projected demand estimates for various petro-chemical items. For meeting the demand-supply gaps, Government have received various proposals for setting up of petrochemical complexes, which are considered on the basis of techno-economic viability.

Exploration of remote hydrocarbons finds by ONGC

1214. DR. B L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has chalked out a phased programme of deep water exploration and sub-sea completion system to exploit remote hydrocarbon finds; and

(b) if so, its broad outlines, the capital outlay involved and steps envisaged for the optimisation of offshore designs to reduce cost ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Levy on coconut husk

1215. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM-ACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any new proposal from Government of Kerala to modify the levy scheme for coconut husk to increase procurement of husk in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the decision of Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of the Government of Kerala for introduction of three point levy on coconut husk has been approved by the Central Government.

Rigs owned by ONGC

1216. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM-ACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rigs owned by Oil and Natural Gas Commission for offshore drilling; and

(b) from which dates, which countries and at what cost were each of them acquired ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Nine.

(b) The details are as under :—