

(a) whether a number of oil fields were found and exploited at Sibsagar in Assam by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the drilling operations in 1956;

(b) if so, the reasons why the ONGC did not set up any related institution of national standing at Sibsagar :

(c) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd which started with refining of crude oil from Assam, set up any functional institution of All India importance in Assam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b). ONGC started geo-scientific surveys in various parts of Assam in 1957, drilling operations in 1959 and production operation in 1966. Since then, survey, drilling and production activities by ONGC in Assam are continuing

ONGC has already decided to set up an institute of Bio-Technology and Geo-Tectonic Studies (INBIGS) in Jorhat in Assam.

(c) and (d). Two refineries of IOC located at Digboi and Guwahati are processing Assam crude oil. The following steps have been taken to promote oil industry in Assam at national level.

(i) Crude Distillation unit at Gauhati Refinery has been modernised in Dec., 1986 at the cost of Rs. 6.87 crores to improve product pattern and reduce fuel and loss.

(ii) Feasibility Report for modernisation of Digboi Refinery at an estimated cost of Rs. 172.07 crores is also under consideration of the Government.

(iii) The refineries at Digboi and

Gauhati have well equipped laboratories for carrying out testing of refinery product streams, certification of finished products, monitoring the quality of effluent discharge etc.

(iv) The refineries at Digboi and Gauhati have well equipped training centres for imparting training to the employees in various fields of refining/operation management.

(e) Does not arise.

Linking of hydel projects and thermal plants for producing cheaper Energy

10318. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of different types of electricity produced in India;

(b) whether the mix of hydro electric and thermal plants electricity is cheaper;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for linking hydro electric and thermal plants to produce cheaper energy under the Central Sector Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). Based on the cost estimates of projects recently cleared by the Central Electricity Authority and the information available for utilities for 1985-86 the average cost of generation of electricity has been estimated as follows :—

	As in 1985-86	Based on Projects recently cleared
	(Paise per unit)	
Thermal	44.05	50-85
Hydel	9.53	35-65

Electricity generated by atomic power plants was sold to State Electricity Boards at rates varying from 40.31 to 45.37 paise per unit on 1.1.1988.

(c) and (d). Both hydel and thermal projects are being taken up in the Central Sector. Power from Central Sector projects is supplied in bulk to the State Electricity Boards at mutually agreed rates.

[Translation]

Supply of under weight cylinders in Roorkee Deoband and Hardwar

10319. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether gas consumers have continuously been lodging complaints against gas agencies in Roorkee, Deoband and Hardwar regarding less quantity of gas in the cylinders;

(b) whether lesser quantity of gas has been found in cylinders during their checking in Roorkee;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether complaints in this regard have been lodged against some gas agencies in Hardwar; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the inquiries concluded into the matter ?

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

(b) and (c). Some cylinder were reported to be under-weight on checking. Two employees of M/s. Roorkee Gas Service were taken into custody and subsequently released, on bail;

(d) No, Sir;

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Spurious LPG Regulators

*10320. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious LPG regulators are being sold in the market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the sale of such regulators;

(c) the number of persons arrested and prosecuted in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to warn people against using spurious regulators ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) The possibility of spurious LPG regulators being sold in the market by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out;

(b) It is obligatory for all manufacturers of LPG regulators to obtain prior approval from the Chief Controller of Explosives;

(c) The details of any persons arrested and prosecuted in this regard are not maintained by the oil industry;

(d) The consumers are advised by the oil companies to make use of company-loaned regulators only.

Manpower in Coal India Limited

10321. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is surplus manpower in the Coal India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the surplus manpower per day ?