

Gas Rules, 1959 under which royalty is payable to the Central Government when crude oil and natural gas are produced from offshore areas and to the concerned State Government when the production is from land vested in that State. The present rate of royalty is Rs. 192/- per MT on crude oil and 10% of the value of natural gas obtained at the well-head. For the year 1987-1988, Oil and Natural Gas Commission have paid Rs. 3.50 lakhs as royalty to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the onshore production of crude oil/natural gas.

[*Translation*]

T.V. Relay Centre in Barauni

3826. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a T.V. relay centre in Barauni (Begusarai); and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Establishment of a low power TV transmitter at Begusarai is included in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan. The transmitter is likely to be commissioned into service during the current financial year (1988-89).

Strike in Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi

3827. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which there was a four-hour strike in the month of July, 1988 in the Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi;

(b) the quantum of loss suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials

responsible for that strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There was stoppage of work only by a group of employees in Central Telegraph Office New Delhi on 14.7.1988 for about 2 1/2 hours due to the suspension of a Telegraph Master who manhandled a Gazetted Officer.

(b) There was no loss but the stoppage of work led to hold-up of the telegrams during that period.

(c) Disciplinary proceedings against the suspended official have been initiated. The officials agitated by the suspension of their colleague stopped work. However, when the circumstances leading to the suspension of the Telegraph-master were explained to the officials, they resumed work thereafter.

[*English*]

Demand of Gas

3828. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding demand of the offshore gas put up by various State Governments and the various projects where the gas would be required;

(b) the recommendations of the Working Group constituted by Government in 1979 under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission for utilisation of offshore gas; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Requests have been received from time to time from various State Governments including the State Governments of Gujarat Maharashtra, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Hary-

ana and Punjab for supply of natural gas for various projects; these requests related primarily to the Fertiliser/Power/Petro-chemical sectors.

(b) A Statement is given below.

(c) The recommendations had been broadly accepted by the Government. The Planning Commission have constituted an Advisory Group on Perspective Plan for natural gas. This group would inter-alia go into the question of optimum utilisation of natural gas bearing in mind the present conditions and circumstances.

STATEMENT

The main recommendations and conclusions of the Working Group are as under:—

- (i) The Working Group fixed the priorities in the use of natural gas on the basis of the opportunity cost for each of the fractions contained in the natural gas. The optimum economic use of the C4 fraction along with some C3 fraction is in the production of LPG, chemicals and C3 fractions in the production of petrochemicals and C1 fraction (lean gas) in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers.
- (ii) As the highest opportunity cost for lean gas is in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers, the Working Group came to the conclusion that almost all the available lean gas could be utilised for production of fertilizers in six new fertilizer plants apart from 2 plants each in Maharashtra & Gujarat already agreed to.
- (iii) The Working Group did not recommend substitution of naphtha or fuel oil by gas in the fertilizer plants of GNFC & GSFC in Gujarat.
- (iv) The Working Group recognised the usefulness of establishing some capacity for sponge iron using the gaseous reduction process and has recommended installation of one unit of a capacity not exceeding 0.5 million tonnes per annum on the basis of economic viability.
- (v) The Working Group did not make any recommendation regarding utilisation of gas for production of chemicals, etc. in view of insufficient techno-economic data available and desired that a detailed examination was necessary before a view could be taken. It also did not make any recommendations regarding use of lean gas for town gas supply in Bombay as the Study Group appointed by the Maharashtra Govt. has yet to submit its report. In its opinion, a view could be taken after the report is received on detailed cost estimates, pricing, financial & economic viability, etc.
- (vi) The Working Group also did not recommend the utilisation of offshore gas in other industries such as glass industry except for production of a small quantity of special variety of glass as per technical recommendation. In its opinion the use of the gas as fuel in general run of glass industry is not essential since fuel oil or electricity can be used.
- (vii) The Working Group could not find justification for using gas for power generation under any of the circumstances mentioned by the various States including Gujarat. The Working Group is of the view that the long term electricity generation policy has to be based on maximum exploitation of hydro-potential and reliance on coal as the primary fuel for power generation. Keeping this in view the Working Group did

not recommend utilisation of gas in the turbine units at Dhuvran & Utran in Gujarat & MSEB's units being set up at Uran in Maharashtra.

- (viii) The Working Group was of the view that the precise location of the landfall point of the offshore gas pipeline from South Bassein would have to be determined on techno-economic consideration as long as gas for the expected end-uses was assured; this issue in its view was not of any significance to the users of the gas.

Expenditure on ONGC Projects in Maharashtra

3829. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the capital investment made by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Bombay High offshore projects and projects in Maharashtra including office and housing complexes and expenditure incurred thereon till March, 1988; and

(b) the yearly recurring expenditure of the ONGC in Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Production and export of watches

3830. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the firms in public and private sectors which produce watches, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the quantity exported by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The required information is given in the Statement below.

(b) According to the statistics of Foreign Trade, exports of watches during the periods 1984-85 and 1985-86 are as under. Data for the later years is not available.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Qty. Nos.</i>	<i>Value in Rs.</i>
April, 84 to March, 85	Wrist Watches, Stop Watches and other Watches.	35,647	58,91,952.00
August, 85 to March, 86	Wrist Watches, and other Watches.	33,353	58,35,037.00

STATEMENT

Existing watch manufacturing units in the organised sector

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Name of the Undertaking</i>	<i>Whether Public Sector or Private Sector</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Allwyn Ltd., Hyderabad.	M/s. State Public