

Regular surprise checks are being carried out on the working of the cooking gas agencies by the officers of the oil companies from time to time. In addition all complaints alleging malpractices on the part of cooking gas distributors are investigated for remedial action.

Tenders for on the spot purchase of Crude oil

3183 SHRI D N TIWARY Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders are called for on the spot purchase of crude oil besides the supply of crude oil from crude producing countries, on contract basis

(b) whether there is any Committee to analyse the tenders for the on the spot purchase of crude oils or it is only the Chairman IOC who deals with such purchases

(c) whether the Chairman IOC had to visit foreign countries for this purpose several times in a year,

(d) if so the cost of the visits and the amount of spot purchases of crude oil and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Chairman IOC has to remain outside the country for a considerable time for one reason or the other?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA)

(a) Yes Sir Tenders are invited by the Indian Oil Corporation for spot purchase of crude oil, as required in addition to the supply of crude oil from the Oil producing countries. It may be stated that as compared with the expected total import of 15 million tonnes of crude oil during 1978-79, the spot purchases of crude during the period April-July have aggregated to 0.55 million tonnes

(b) The bids in response to the tender are tabulated and evaluated by the Indian Oil Corporation in accordance with the usual purchase procedures, which require concurrence of Finance Division before approval. There is no separate committee for analysing these tenders. Thereafter the case is also submitted to Government for approval.

(c) Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation has not visited any foreign country for the purpose of finalising spot purchases of crude oil.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above

(e) No Sir. The Chairman Indian Oil Corporation went abroad on 6 occasions during the year 1977-78 with the approval of Government for necessary discussions in regard to import of crude oil and petroleum products.

Fire Accident in A P Express

3184 SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) what were the reasons for a major fire-accident causing complete burning of two bogies besides much damage to AC bogie on the day time running train of AP Express in May 1978

(b) what corrective steps have been taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) The cause of the accident is under investigation

(b) The Railways are inter alia taking the following measures for prevention of fires in trains

(1) Notices are displayed in coaches warning the passengers against the carriage of inflammable substances

(ii) Steam locomotives are provided with spark arrestors.

(iii) Announcements are also made on the public address system at stations, warning the passengers that crackers, fire-works and other dangerous goods are not to be carried in the compartments.

Using of Helicopter by ONGC for Off-shore drilling

3185. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) in co-operation of the Air Force whether the O.N.G.C. is using helicopter for the off-shore drilling;

(b) apart from the cooperation of the Air Force whether the O.N.G.C. has hired some foreign companies helicopters;

(c) if so, the details and names of the foreign country companies;

(d) if so, the total amount spent on the hired helicopters; and

(e) whether Government will buy helicopters of its own to avoid paying huge amount to multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). Apart from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, ONGC has engaged the following foreign agencies:—

1. M/s. Okanagan Helicopters Ltd., Canada, from 1976-77 to May 1978.
2. M/s. C. D. International Ltd., Singapore, from 1977-78 to date.

ONGC has paid approximately Rs. 4.15 crores to Indian parties and approximately US \$ 21.95 lakhs to foreign parties till 31-3-1978.

(e) Purchase of helicopters for ONGC's off-shore operations is under consideration.

Storing of Bombay High Oil

3186. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bombay High started producing oil;

(b) what has been its flow;

(c) whether Government have made for storing the Bombay High Oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the channels to store this Oil produced from Bombay High?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). The commercial production of oil from Bombay High commenced in May, 1976. The present production of crude oil from Bombay High is about 80,000 barrels per day i.e. about 4 million tonnes per annum.

(c) to (e). Till recently the Oil and Natural Gas Commission used the single buoy mooring system with a storage tanker for supply of crude oil through tanker ships. Presently the oil produced is directly being transported through a pipeline to the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd's Refinery at Trombay.