

and agencies in various towns of Assam; and

(b) how Government propose to accommodate them urgently and the policy being followed in giving agencies of cooking gas in Assam, the producing State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The total number of persons seeking gas connections and now on waiting list with different distributors of Indane Gas in Assam is about 6,000.

There is no waiting list for allotment of gas agencies and applications for new gas agencies are considered only when they are submitted in response to advertisements issued by oil companies.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation propose to appoint one new gas distributor at Gauhati during the current financial year. According to the present policy for award of agencies, 25 per cent of all agencies on all India basis are to be awarded to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, 2 per cent to physically handicapped persons and the remaining on commercial considerations, preference being given to genuine Consumer Co-operative Societies and Agro-Industries Corporations. Availability of LPG is expected to increase substantially from 1980 onwards when it will be possible to enrol new customers on a significant scale.

Working Group to study to create Additional capacity in Petrochemical Industry

218. **SHRI SACHINDRALAL SINGHA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group had been set-up to study the need to create additional capacity in the petrochemical industry in India;

(b) if so, the names of the members of the group and details of the recommendations of the study group; and

(c) Government re-action thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir. The working group has recently been reconstituted.

(b) and (c). A statement indicating the composition of the reconstituted working group is attached.

The group has not yet submitted its report.

Statement

Composition of the reconstituted working group on Petro-chemicals:—

Representatives of:

1. Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices—Chairman.
2. Department of Petroleum—Member-Secretary.
3. Ministry of Finance
 - (a) Plan Finance
 - (b) Department of Economic Affairs
 - (c) Department of Expenditure
4. Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries
5. Department of Science and Technology.
6. Director General, Technical Development
7. Department of Industrial Development (Textile Wing).
8. Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers
9. Ministry of Commerce (Economic Adviser—Shri V. Kelkar)
10. Ministry of Industry (Economic Adviser—Shri Bimal Jalan)
11. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (Dr. S. Varadarejan, Chairman and Managing Director)

12. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (Shri R. N. Bhatnagar, Chairman)

13. National Chemical Laboratory, Poona (Dr. B. D. Tilak, Director)

14. Indian Oil Corporation (Shri C. R. Das Gupta, Chairman)

15. Development Council for Organic Chemicals Industry

16. Federation of Association of Small Industries of India

17. All India Plastic Manufacturers Association

18. Indian Plastics Federation

19. All India Synthetic Fibre Manufacturers Association

20. Association of Man-made Fibre Industry.

Following may be invited/co-opted as and when required:

Representatives of:

1. Silk and Art Silk Mills Research Association

2. The Plastics and Rubber Institute

3. Chairman, Engineers India Ltd.

4. Director, CIPET.

Geological and Geophysical Survey by O.N.G.C. in North Bengal

219. SHRI SHAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological and Geophysical surveys have been carried out by the O.N.G.C. in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the work done in this area with the date and the names of the scientists worked for and the area thereof;

(c) the details of the report placed after the surveys made by the O.N.G.C. officials;

(d) whether the O.N.G.C. proposed to survey the area again; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The area is considered to be of low prospect for commercial Hydrocarbons.

Statement

(b) Geological Surveys

Area	Date	Name of Scientist/Party Chief
(1) Buraduar	1960-61	D. N. Basu, Geologist.
(2) Foothills area between Jaldhaka and Mechi Rivers in Darjeeling District	1961-62	S. Ganguli, Geologist.
(3) Area between Tindharia and Ghum in Darjeeling District	1966-67	P. K. Chatterjee, Geologist.