

notice has been issued against them by the Collector of Central Excise, Kanpur;

(c) if so, at what stage the cases are at present and the details of the cases;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Jaipurias are trying to influence people in 'high places' to escape from the cases; and

(e) if so, what guarantees are made so that no undue influence will be brought in by the company; and they escape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the subject of excise duties is the concern of the Ministry of Finance, attention is invited to the information furnished in reply to Unstarred Question Nos. 6393 and 7857 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the Lok Sabha on 6th April, 1979 and the 20th April, 1979 respectively. Attention is also invited to the proceedings of the half-an-hour discussion in the Lok Sabha held on 10th May, 1979 arising out of the reply given by the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to Unstarred Question No. 3030 on 13-3-1979.

(c) So far as the proceedings under Section 408 of the Companies, Act, 1956 under which show cause notice has been issued to the Company, are concerned, the Company Law Board has part-heard the concerned parties and further hearing to the parties is scheduled to be given shortly. As for the excise cases referred to in part (b), according to the information obtained from the Ministry of Finance, the adjudication proceedings are reported to be still pending.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Proposal to set up a New Unit of Hindustan Aeronautics in Punjab

398. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are thinking of setting up a new unit of the Hindustan Aeronautics in Punjab to manufacture avionics for the Jaguar Aircraft, while the existing capacity of the Hyderabad division of the Hindustan Aeronautics are not fully utilised; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The question of undertaking manufacture of new ranges of equipment of Jaguar Aircraft at a separate factory *vis-a-vis* at an existing factory is still under consideration of Government. The selection of a site would be entrusted to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited after the need for setting up of an independent factory is established.

Drilling Operations in Tamil Nadu Region

399. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the range and extent of exploratory drillings for oil carried out now in various parts of the country and the prospects of discovery of new deposits; and

(b) the present state of drilling operations in Tamil Nadu Region particularly in Cauvery basin and the reasons why deeper drilling cannot be resorted to in the face of unmistakable evidence of considerable deposits in that region?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) ONGC is presently carrying out exploratory drilling in the states of Gujarat, Assam, Tripura, West Bengal,

Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh by deploying 32 deep drilling rigs. Besides these on-land areas exploratory drilling is also being carried out in the offshore areas in the Arabian sea and Palk strait by three drilling rigs. The exploration work both in onshore and offshore areas is being undertaken according to geological priorities ascertained by various studies and surveys carried out. The exploratory plans formulated for the five year period starting from 1978-79, envisage directing exploratory efforts not only in the two known oil bearing basins namely Cambay and Assam-Aizakam basins but also in certain new areas in West Bengal and coastal Andhra Pradesh which are considered to be prospective. In offshore areas exploration will be extended to east coast and Andaman offshore. It is proposed to increase progressively the number of rigs and also the number of geo-exploratory survey parties to cover more areas.

It is planned to prove above 115 million tonnes (65 million tonnes from Onshore and 50 million tonnes from Offshore) or additional recoverable reserves of oil/gas during the period 1978-79 to 1983-84.

(b) Presently no drilling is proposed in the onland Cauvery basin area of Tamil Nadu. During 1979-80 field season it is proposed to deploy 3 seismic parties in Tamil Nadu to carry out systematic surveys of the Ariyalur Pondicherry Thanjavour and

Ramnad sub-basins, to delineate prospects for testing by exploratory drilling. No unmistakable evidence of commercial oil deposits has been found in the Tamil Nadu Region of Cauvery Basin so far by ONGC. Only indications of some non-commercial oil had been obtained from the two of the wells drilled in Karaikal area.

Rise in the price of Steel

400 SHRI HUKAMDEO NARAIN YADAV Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the extent to which price of Steel, per tonne was increased during the period 1975 to 1978 and when its price was increased and the causes thereof, and

(b) the shortfall in production year-wise during the above period, and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA)

(a) Prices of different categories of steel plants during the period from 1975-76 to 1978-79 is given below. Broadly there was no shortfall during the year 1975-76 and 1976-77 —

(b) Production of saleable steel *ms-a-1* is the targets and shortfall/excess in production at the integrated steel plants during the period from 1975-76 to 1978-79 is given below. Broadly there was no shortfall during the year 1975-76 and 1976-77 —

Production of Saleable Steel

Year	Target	Actual	(000 tonnes) Excess (+) Shortfall (-)
1975-76	5700	5779	(+) 79
1976-77	6465	6922	(+) 457
1977-78	7373	6894	(-) 479
1978-79	7676	6591	(-) 1085

The production of saleable steel in 1977-78 and 1978-79 was adversely affected by a number of factors. The main factors were problems relating to supplies of coking coal both in terms of quantity and quality, shortage and frequent restrictions/fluctuations in power supply, indifferent industrial relations in some of the

plants, unprecedented rains and floods in West Bengal in September, 1978 resulting in flooding of coal fields as well as Durgapur Steel Plant and affecting the rail movement and critical position of some raw materials at some of the plants in 1978 caused by movement bottlenecks