

(b) if so, whether Government of India have granted permission for the said purpose; and

(c) if not, what is the thinking of Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since, at present, there is a ban on the setting up of fresh formulation capacity for pesticides, unless it is linked up with manufacture from the basic stage, it has not been possible for the Government of India to agree to the Maharashtra Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited's proposal.

Supply of Diesel to Fishing Trawlers in Maharashtra

728. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme of financing the construction of Fishing trawlers by fishermen and/or their co-operative societies in Maharashtra has been suspended by the Nationalised Banks on the ground that the Trawlers cannot run due to shortage of diesel; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take:—

(i) to supply diesel to the Fishing Trawlers in Maharashtra urgently and adequately; and

(ii) to direct the Nationalised Banks to resume the programme of Financing Fishing Trawlers immediately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Discovery of Oil and Gas Fields by O.N.G.C.

729. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has recently found both Oil and Gas at a village near Hasot Taluka in Broach District as also a promising gas field in the gulf of Cambay,

(b) if so, the estimated production of Gas and Oil and its commercial viability;

(c) the likely use of this available gas; and

(d) in view of tremendous potentiality of getting huge gas from North and South Tapti gas fields and the new gas find in the gulf of Cambay, do Government propose to consider setting up of a power plant in Saurashtra based on the use of this gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

Recently, ONGC has found an Oil and Gas field (West Motwan) in Broach District and a gas field (Mid-Tapti) in the Gulf of Cambay.

(b) Mid-Tapti structure field is still under exploratory stage and therefore, production of gas and its commercial viability cannot be estimated at this stage. Further exploration of the West Motwan structure in Gujarat is under way to ascertain the geometry of the pool. One gas well on the structure has been put on production. The well has so far produced 7.5 million cubic metres of gas. The rate of production of gas from the well is around 50,000 m³/day.

(c) Nothing can be said till the exploration and development of the fields have been completed.