

(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.

(d) The question of utilisation of Tapti Gas is premature since any decision about its exploitation and transportation will be possible only after the Tapti structures have been fully appraised and declared commercial.

Implementation of Land Ceiling Act in Karnataka

730. **SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA**: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Central Government that land ceiling act in Karnataka is at a stand-still; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to make the Act practical and purposeful?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, the Governments of the States and the Union territory Administrations in which the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is in force, have brought to the notice of the Government of India certain practical difficulties and lacunae in its provisions. These are being examined. The Government of India had set up a Working Group in November, 1979 and the Group is expected to finalise its report by the end of April, 1980. After the receipt of the report the Government will be in a position to take a final view in the matter.

Finding of Oil in Arunachal Pradesh

731. **SHRI P. K. THUNGON**: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that after carrying out drilling work in Arunachal Pradesh oil has been found and can be economically exploited; and

(b) if so, when these deposits are going to be extracted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Oil India struck oil in a shallow horizon in exploration well, Kharsang III in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) A number of extension wells have to be drilled to delineate the oil bearing structure and its production potential. It is expected that the company will be in a position to indicate the production possibilities by the end of this year.

Acute shortages of Diesel and Kerosene in Country

732. **SHRI SURAJ BHAN**: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of Diesel and Kerosene oil in the country as a result of which the farmers and the general public are facing great hardship; and

(b) the approximate period by which the situation is expected to be normalised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Reports of shortages of High Speed Diesel and Kerosene have been received by the Government.

(b) All efforts continue to be made to maximise supplies of High Speed Diesel and Kerosene in the country. The situation, however, will improve significantly as soon as Barauni Refinery starts functioning fully and the normal operations of the three refineries in Assam are also resumed.

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733. **DR. KARAN SINGH**: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the previous Education Minister