

recoverable reserves are placed at 272 billion cubic metres.

(b) It is the policy of the Government to use offshore gas for production of fertilizers, petro-chemicals and extraction of LPG and not to use it as fuel except as a fall-back arrangement till the fertilizer plants, etc. are able to utilise it fully.

The new gas-based projects already approved and being planned at present include:

(1) Two fertilizer plants, each at Thal Vaishet in Maharashtra and Hazira in Gujarat.

(2) A gas fractionation plant at Uran in Maharashtra to produce LPG.

(3) 6 new fertilizer plants in M.P., Rajasthan and UP/Punjab region as recommended by the Satishchandran Working Group.

(4) Gas Crackers/petro chemical complexes in Maharashtra and Gujarat and at suitable locations elsewhere.

(5) Gas fractionation plants to produce LPG, depending on the locations of the new gas-based fertilizer plants, demand of the area, etc.

Drilling operations in Cachar and Assam

3342. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the scopes of getting oil in the district of Cachar, as per findings of the experts;

(b) the date and year of starting drilling operation by ONGC in Cachar, Assam and in how many places;

(c) whether it is a fact that the progress of the work is not satisfactory in comparison to the other places of the country; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to restart drilling operation in Chorgola, where the operation in been stopped for break-down of drilling machinery for the last two years and now Government propose to speed up the work in view of the serious crisis of Petroleum Oil and Lubricants products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VERENDRA PATIL): (a) Cachar is a known petroiferous area. Earlier much before independence Burmah Oil Company had a producing field known as Badampur in this area.

(b) The ONGC started drilling operations in Cachar by spudding its first well at Chorgola structure on 5-7-77. Another well at Barak structure is currently under drilling. This the ONGC has so far taken up drilling at two places in Cachar area.

(c) The drilling in Cachar which is of exploratory nature, is satisfactory considering the geology and history of drilling in the area in the past. Burmah Oil Company had to abandon several wells in this area due to the complicated sub-surface conditions. However, in comparison to other areas in the country (except Tripura) the progress is slow.

(d) It is not true that the drilling operations at Chorgola were stopped due to break down of drilling machinery. Actually the drilling at Chorgola had to be suspended due to down hole complications. ONGC plans to take up drilling at Chorgola again during the current year. At present one rig is deployed in Cachar to drill an exploratory well on Barak structure. Besides, 8 locations have been released on 4 structures, in Cachar for drilling.

To speed up the work of drilling in Cachar area, it is proposed to deploy an additional rig from the year 1982-83. During the period 1980-85 a total of 8 rig years of drilling have been planned for Cachar.

Installation of 500 M.W. and 1000 M.W. Units in Orissa

3343. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received by the Central Electricity Authority for installation of 500 M.W. and 1000 M.W. units in Orissa; and

(b) if so, whether places have been suggested and which places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No formal proposal has been received by the Central Electricity Authority for installation of 500 M.W. and/or 1000 M.W. units in Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Collaboration in Coal Industry

3344. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration for tie-up with coal industry of foreign countries especially, U.K., France, Japan, Poland, Hungary etc.; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have received proposals from U.K., France, Poland, West Germany and Romania for assistance in the development of coal industry in India.

(b) Agreements have been signed with the USSR for new underground mining technology, design of large opencast mine projects and washeries, modernisation of coal washeries and mine construction. Agreements have also been signed with Poland for transfer of knowhow in design of shaft sinking, vertical and horizontal transport, mining technology, project construction and monitoring etc., The agreements also provide for training of Indian Specialists in Poland.

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the French Government to provide the technical assistance in designing and planning of coal mines. U.K. assistance is being availed of for in-production of mechanised longwall mining in underground mines.

Demand for Nutan Kerosene Stove

3345. SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the total demand of the Indian Oil designed "Nutan" kerosene stove;

(b) whether the demand is being fully met at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that this stove is at present available only in the capital; and

(d) if so, steps taken to make it easily available in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VERENDRA PATIL): (a) The total demand of Nutan kerosene stoves has been estimated at 15 lakhs pieces per year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. It is marketed in the Union Territory of Delhi, as well as in a number of other States/Union Territories.