

Recommended for change of site of Mathura Refinery

3356. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Select Committee on the Prevention on Air Pollution Bill 1978 has strongly recommended that the proposed site of the Mathura Refinery be changed in order to minimize the pollution hazard to the Taj Mahal and the Mathura area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). The Select Committee on the Prevention of Air Pollution Bill 1978 had *inter alia* recommended that the Government should "look into the Refinery problem afresh and examine the feasibility of shifting at least the most polluting units of the Refinery to the Etawah Region" and that "the treated liquid effluents which are likely to poison the already polluted drinking water of the Agra region, should if possible be conveyed through a pipeline and discharged into the river at a suitable point down-stream of Agra or Etawah to protect the drinking water supply".

These recommendations were examined by the Government. It was found that it is technically no possible to locate the polluting units elsewhere and keep the offsite facilities such as storage tanks for crude oil and petroleum products, blending, loading and unloading arrangements at Mathura. As regards the discharge of treated effluents from the refinery, it is felt that in view of the considerable expertise already available in the country as well as the measures already adopted/proposed to be taken in this regard, it will not be necessary to re-route treated effluent water for discharging down-stream of Agra.

Providing water from Polavaram barrage to Visakhapatnam

3357. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Centre for providing water from Polavaram barrage to Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Polavaram Project Report Stage-I received in the Central Water Commission from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in December 1978 provides for water supply to Visakhapatnam, through the left bank canal. The project report was examined in the Commission and comments were sent to the State Government in September and November 1979, and May, 1980. The State Officers have also been requested to discuss the comments with the Central Water Commission and provide clarifications as necessary.

Proposal from Tamil Nadu for an Off-shore power plant

3358. SHRI C. CHINASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to start an off-shore power plant to generate electricity from the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when Government are going to consider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c).