

(b) what was the quota of allotment and what was the demand of West Bengal during the above-mentioned period?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) A total quantity of about 70,000 tonnes of bitumen was supplied to the State of West Bengal during the year 1980-81.

(b) The revised allocation of bitumen to West Bengal for 1980-81 was 86,000 tonnes. In January, 1980, a request for allotment of 68,000 tonnes of bitumen to the State, during the period from January to June 1980 was received in this Ministry.

#### **Lifting of Diesel Curbs**

6610. **SHRI DAULAT SINGH JADJA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has sent any direction to State Governments in regard to lift diesel curbs in their State;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have lifted curbs on diesel and on what date; and

(c) when all the restrictions on the distribution of diesel will be lifted throughout the country?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c) Diesel allocations have been substantially increased for March and April, and it should be possible for the States who distribute the product to lift all restrictions in view of adequate availability of the product.

#### **Public Deposits raised by companies**

6611. **SHRI R. PRABHU:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of deposits taken from the public by companies as on 31st March, 1979 and 31st March, 1980 as per the Returns furnished by these companies;

(b) the number of companies which have accepted these deposits;

(c) the names and the number of companies defaulted in repayment of these deposits, and

(d) the names of companies which have been prosecuted for their failure to refund the public deposits?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):**

(a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India periodically compiles and publishes data about the deposits held by various categories of companies. On the basis of a 'quick' survey of the returns of deposits received by it, the Bank has furnished the following figures in respect of non-banking non-financial companies, deposit acceptance of which is regulated by this Department:—

Date	No. of companies	Amounts of deposit held
31.3.1979	3102	Rs. 688.5 crores
31.3.1980	3050	Rs. 986.9 crores

(c) According to the information furnished by the Registrars of Companies, based on the returns of deposits as on 31.3.1979 received by them, 242 non-banking non-financial companies had defaulted in payment of matured deposits though claimed; their names are indicated in Annexure I, laid on the Table of the House. Placed in Library. (See No. LT 2326/81).

(d) There is no provision in the Companies Act, 1956, for the prosecution of a company for its failure to repay the natured deposits, except a

transitory provision [section 58A(3) (a)] in regard to deposits accepted by a company before the commencement of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1974, which, unless renewed in accordance with the Deposit Rules were required to be repaid as per the terms of such deposit. The failure to repay the deposits on maturity gives rise to a civil claim and the depositor can seek redress in an appropriate court of law.

**गुजरात तेल शोधन कारखाने में आन्दोलन**

**6612. श्री रामादतार शास्त्री :** क्या पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात तेल शोधन कारखाने के कर्मचारी अपनी मांगों के समर्थन में आन्दोलन कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी मांगों के बारे में क्या है ;

(ग) सरकार की उन पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(घ) क्या एक सौ से अधिक कर्मचारियों को आरोप-पत्र जारी किये गए हैं ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**पेट्रोस्लियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में  
से राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलवीर सिंह) :**

(क) गुजरात शोधन कारखाने के काम-कार संघ ने दिनांक 28-2-81 से "नियमानुसार कार्य करने" का आन्दोलन आरंभ किया था, परन्तु दिनांक 2-4-81 से उसे उन्होंने समाप्त कर दिया है ।

(ख) बोनस अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत 20% के अनुभव बोनस के अतिरिक्त उनकी मुख्य मांग अनुग्रहपूर्वक अदायगी से संबंधित थी ।

(ग) आन्दोलन अनुचित था ।

(घ) और (ङ). कार्य करने से इन्कार करना, "नियमानुसार कार्य करने" के रूप में धीरे कार्य करना, प्रबंधकों के कानूनी आदेशों की अवहेलना करना, उत्पाती व्यवहार करना, कार्य में अवरोध पैदा करने आदि के कारण, 130 कर्मचारियों को आरोप-पत्र जारी किये गये थे ।

**Deposits of gas in Bengal Basin**

6613. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention had been drawn towards a news-item in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 15th March, 1981 wherein an international authority on 'deltas' Dr. Ram Saxena, had expressed the opinion that the Bengal basin had large deposits of gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (d). Dr. Ram S. Saxena is the President of a U.S. Consultancy firm M/s. Geoconsultants International (GCI) with which ONGC has entered into a contract on August 4, 1980, for delta model study of the Bengal basin. The duration of the contract is 18 months from the date of signing after which the report of the study would be made available. Meanwhile, the data from seismic surveys already carried out from the wells drilled in Bengal basin is being reprocessed and re-analysed in U.S.A. by M/s. GCI in association with ONGC geoscientists. Pending availability of the results of this study, it is not possible to comment on the reported press statement of Dr. Ram S. Saxena.