

Payment of Royalties to Oil Producing States

366. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of royalty being paid to oil producing states on oil;

(b) whether these States have requested for increasing the royalty; and

(c) if so, by how much and the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The royalty on crude oil and casing head condensate has been fixed at Rs. 61 per tonne w.e.f. 1st April, 1981.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While no specific amount has been indicated by the Gujarat Government, the Assam Government have asked for a royalty of Rs. 400 per tonne. The oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 under which royalty is fixed provides for revision once in four years. However, the matter is under examination.

Production at Haldia Fertilizer Plant

367. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after the completion of the mechanical erection work at the Haldia Fertilizer Complex, more than a year ago, some major units are yet to be commissioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project is likely to produce annually only 15 to 20 per cent of its anticipated turn-over; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, together with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI

DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The project could not be commissioned due to non-availability of the required power from the West Bengal State Electricity Board.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Top Positions in Central Electricity Authority

368. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain top position in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have been going abegging;

(b) if so, details thereof stating the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The posts of Member (Thermal) and Member (Planning) have been vacant from 1st February, 1980 and 7th April, 1979, respectively. A candidate was earlier selected for the post of Member (Thermal) and order of his appointment was also issued. The candidate, however, declined to join the post. Since then, further efforts have been made to select a suitable candidate for this post. The proposal is under advanced stage of finalisation.

Similar efforts have been made for finding a suitable candidate for the post of Member (Planning) also. Certain names have since been received and the selection process is in progress.

Hydro-Power Project delayed due to Inter-State Disputes on Sharing of Power

369. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH;

SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA;

SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN: