

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has endorsed the view of its Sub-Committee contained in its report to abolish Court fees. Court fees is a State subject and accordingly the States are being addressed in the matter.

(b) Occasion has not arisen.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Construction of ONGC's Off-shore supply base and fabrication Plant at Nhava

1248. **SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:**

SHRI CHANDRA DEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the construction of ONGC's off-shore supply base and off-shore fabrication plant at Nhava islands has been delayed by at least a year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated rise in the cost anticipated as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to remove the bottleneck?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons briefly were delay in the receipt of clearance from Bombay Port Trust, labour problems in the equipment suppliers' factories, agitation by local people over compensation for the land acquired, objections raised by the environmentalists, etc.

(c) The estimated rise in the cost today is expected to be about 14 per cent of the project cost of November, 1978.

(d) Clearance from the Bombay Port Trust has been obtained. State Government has started paying compensation for the acquired land from the middle of July, 1981.

In case of delay in supplies of equipment, orders have been offloaded to other vendors.

In order to protect the environment, etc., Central and State Government have set up monitoring committees.

News-item captioned "Country's First ever Private Sector Power Plant"

1249. **SHRI QAZI SALEEM:**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of **ENERGY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported news of 'Patriot' Delhi of 2nd August, 1981 that the country's First ever Private Sector large thermal power plant outside Bombay may be set up in Western U.P., probably at Gaziabad by a consortium of industrialists including the house of Modi;

(b) whether the details for the same are now to be worked out by the State Electricity authorities, the Central Energy Minister, Central Electricity Authority and the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the details of the said plant;

(d) how much financial and other types of assistance is expected from the Centre;

(e) whether any such move is proposed to be considered for establishment of such plants in Maharashtra and particularly in Aurangabad area being the backward area; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). No proposal has been received by the Central Electricity Authority for setting up of a thermal power plant in U.P. by the private sector. However, a reference was received from U.P. State Electricity Board by Central Electricity Authority forwarding a proposal of the U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for installation of captive generating sets of 2x30 MW capacity. This plant was proposed to be jointly promoted by UPSIDC and the industrial units in Bulandshehar area. Since the proposal lacked in essential details, it was referred back to U.P. State Electricity Board by Central Electricity Authority. Revised detailed proposal has not yet been received from U.P. State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) and (f). M/s. Tata Electric Company have sent to the Maharashtra State Government a proposal to instal one more set of 500 MW at their Trombay thermal power station. The proposal is under consideration of the State Government and no decision has yet been taken by them. There is no proposal to establish private thermal plants in Aurangabad area.

Views expressed by Soviet Oil Expert on availability of Oil and Gas in India

1250. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the view expressed by world famous Soviet oil expert, Professor N. A. Kalinin that on the basis of calculations and long-term forecasts, India can extract oil upto 35 million tonnes and gas upto 37 billion Cu. metres yearly and maintain this level of extraction for 25 years;

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(b) whether Government are aware that Professor Kalinin noted that the land prospects are very good, especially in West Bengal regions of Bodhra and Professor Canning, junction point Mymensigh—with vault reefs and delta formations, in the Cambay basin, region of Ankleshwar at depths not exceeding 5000—6000 m., in Punjab at Mesozoic-Cainozoic deposits in the limits of Jwalamukhi and Dharamsala;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in this matter; and

(d) the details of the work so far done by the ONGC in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Government is aware of the opinion expressed by Professor N. A. Kalinin.

(b) Government is also aware of Professor Kalinin's views regarding hydrocarbon prospects in Bodra and Port Canning areas of West Bengal, deep mesozoic prospects of Jawalamukhi and Dharamsala areas of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) An exploration and production programme has been drawn up by a team of Indian and Soviet Experts for all the onshore basins. This envisages a production of 5.80 million tonnes of oil and 1000 million cubic metres of gas per annum by ONGC from the Onshore areas by the end of 1984-85.

(d) ONGC have conducted surveys in these areas and have also drilled (as on 1-7-1981) a total of 6 wells in West Bengal, 1270 wells in the Cambay Basin, 2 wells in Punjab and 8 wells in Himachal Pradesh.

Telephone faults in Calcutta area

1251. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many telephone faults were reported in the area covered by