

Castes/Scheduled Tribes are given in the enclosed statement. Other details are not readily available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Parents of minor handicapped children can take their chance against the category appropriate to their eligibility.

**Statement**

LPG distributorships awarded from 1-1-1979 to 31-8-1981

State	Total	SC/ST
Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	12	1
Bihar . . . . .	2	2
Gujarat . . . . .	16	4
Haryana . . . . .	3	..
Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	2	2
Karnataka . . . . .	12	3
Kerala . . . . .	2	..
Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	6	1
Maharashtra . . . . .	34	9
Orissa . . . . .	2	1
Punjab . . . . .	3	..
Rajasthan . . . . .	8	1
Tamil Nadu . . . . .	4	1
Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	30	4
West Bengal . . . . .	7	..
Chandigarh . . . . .	2	2
Delhi . . . . .	11	1
Goa, Daman and Diu . . . . .	1	..
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>32</b>

**Setting up of gas cracker projects on Bombay High Gas**

5045. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PET-

ROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in setting up of the Maharashtra Gas Cracker Project and Gujarat Gas Cracker Project based on Bombay High Gas;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each project; and

(c) when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A site has been selected for a Gas Cracker and downstream units in Maharashtra; the complex will be located in Nagothana away from Alibagh area so as not to affect the environment in that region. The product mix has been settled and tenders have been invited for the selection of technology etc. from reputed process licensors. A Task Force has been set up to supervise and expedite implementation.

Details of the Gujarat Gas Cracker project are being worked out. -

(b) The estimated cost of the project proposed to be set up in Maharashtra is about Rs. 900 crores. In July, 1979, the Government of Gujarat had estimated the project cost for a gas based petrochemicals complex in Gujarat at Rs. 780 crores.

(c) Normally, it takes 5-6 years after all approvals to set up such projects.

**Discontinuance of production of essential drugs**

5046. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of some essential drugs is being steadily discontinued by some drug-producing companies;

(b) if so, the names of those vital drug formulations which are being discontinued;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to increase the production of those drugs? ..

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Some essential drugs like (i) PAS and its salts by M/s. Pfizer and (ii) Sulphaphenazol by IDPL have reportedly not been produced during the past few months on account of factors like limitation of demand etc. But the formulations based on these drugs have neither been discontinued nor have they run into shortages as these bulk drugs are being produced by other manufacturing units. Formulations like PAS granules produced by M/s. Biological Evans are available.

The important steps taken by the Government with a view to constantly improving the availability of essential and life saving drugs have been mentioned in the answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 24 given on the 24th November, 1981. U

#### Oil exploration work in Mahanadi Basin

5047. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil exploration work in Mahanadi basin is going to be started very shortly;

(b) if so, when it is actually proposed to be started; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). Oil India Limited is already engaged in exploration work in Mahanadi Basin both off-shore and onshore.

(c) The Oil has conducted aeromagnetic and geophysical/seismic surveys in the 1200 kms area in Mahanadi basin offshore. Two wells have been drilled in the area but these did not yield hydrocarbons. The data collected in these surveys is being re-interpreted with the assistance of consultants to identify new drillable locations.

In Mahanadi onshore area seismic surveys have been taken in hand. Further action will depend on the results of these surveys.

#### Direct telephone link between Swampatra and Keonjhar district in Orissa

5048. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide direct telephone link between Swampatra and Keonjhar in Orissa ;

(b) whether such a proposal is likely to be implemented as Swampatra is one of the populous places of Keonjhar District and it is situated near the Bhimkund Dam Project; and

(c) the expected time in implementing the above proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

गोरखपुर शहर के जलमग्न होने के बारे में समाचार के प्रसारण से उत्पन्न घातक

5049. श्री अशफाक हुसैन : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 19 सितम्बर, 1981 को प्राति: 8 बजे और 8.10 बजे क्रमश हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी के समाचार बुलेटिनों में इस बात का प्रसारण