

the P&T Department from the Department of Parliamentary Affairs. Nominations to the T.A.Cs. are made by the Government after considering the lists of names received (1) from the General/District Manager (2) directly by the Ministry and (3) from the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

(b) and (c). The two members of Parliament were nominated to the Trivandrum T.A.C. in consultation with the Department of Parliamentary Affairs as per the existing policy.

Introduction of T.V. in North Eastern Council

735. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the North Eastern Council has sought the Planning Commission's approval of Rs. 28 crore to introduce television in that region in the shortest time and involving minimum expenditure;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e) A special plan for introducing Television in the North Eastern Region was drawn up by this Ministry for a capital expenditure of Rs. 25.7 crores. The Plan was also approved by the North Eastern Council. An amount of Rs. 7 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for implementation of the scheme of introduction of television in the North Eastern Region in the 6th Plan.

Use of Natural Gas

736. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMI-

CALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state,

(a) whether Government have taken policy decision for using natural gas; and

(b) whether Methane, the major constituent of natural gas, is not used and applied properly in the industry due to lack of correct Government policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The present policy of the Government is that, as far as practicable, gas should be utilised as feed-stock for the production of fertilizers, petrochemicals and for extraction of LPG, etc. To the extent the gas (including Methane) cannot be used immediately for these purposes it could be diverted for other purposes such as power generation, etc., purely as a fall-back arrangement on a temporary basis till priority sectors like fertilizers and petrochemicals are ready to utilise it.

In Gujarat, almost the entire quantity of both associated and free gas stands committed to various consumers except for some low pressure gas which is used internally for production purposes.

In Assam, at present there is surplus gas available, a major part of which is committed for supply to the Namrup III unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and also for the proposed expansion unit of Assam State Electricity Board. However, flaring of some quantity of gas becomes inevitable in the event of failure on the consumers' part to offtake the committed quantity and the mechanical failure of equipment etc.

Regarding offshore, associated gas produced from Bombay High field is supplied to M/s. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers as foodstock as well as fuel and to M/s. Tata Electric Company and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for generation of power. This

supply of gas as fuel for power generation is purely on a fall-back basis pending completion of the priority users for offshore gas viz. Thal Fertilizers Plants, etc.

Imports of Petroleum Products

737. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the import of petroleum products during the current year, over and above the normal imports already estimated at the commencement of the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantities of actual imports during the past three years and the figures of indigenous production during the corresponding period;

(d) what measures were considered by Government such as by way of restriction on use, substitution or otherwise to curtail or restrict the quantity of imports; and

(e) the effects of this situation on the national economy and measures taken to counteract them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLLUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). As against the preliminary tentative estimates for 1982-83, for import of 4 million tonnes of petroleum products the present estimates are for import of 5.8 million tonnes of such products. The reasons for this increase in import requirements are primarily on account of, *inter alia* the industrial relations problem in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., in Bombay upto June, 1982, and the shut down of its secondary processing units at least till the end of September, 1982, as also delay in commissioning of the secondary processing units of Mathura and Koyali Refineries.

(c) The quantities of actual imports during the past three years and the

figures of indigenous production during the corresponding period for petroleum products are given below:--

(Qty. Million Tonnes)

Petroleum Products

Year	Indigenous production	Imports
	Qty.	
1979-80	25.79	4.73
1980-81	24.12	7.29
1981-82*	28.20	4.97

*Provisional

(d) and (e). Continuous efforts are being made by Government to minimise the dependence on imports in this regard. Apart from taking steps to augment indigenous crude oil production and refining capacity, several measures have also been taken to reduce the consumption of petroleum products. Some of these are:

- (i) Introduction of an improved version of Kerosene wick stove possessing a thermal efficiency of 60 per cent as compared to the 45 per cent efficiency of other kerosene wick stoves usually sold in the market;
- (ii) Advising Central Government Ministries/Departments, State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings to effect savings in the consumption of motor spirit (petrol) in their staff cars;
- (iii) Giving advice to State Government of canalised drugs in speed limits for passenger transport vehicles within cities and towns, and on local transport vehicles as well as to control goods and passenger vehicles with high smoke exhausts in order to achieve efficiency in diesel consumption;
- (iv) Initiating studies in the State Road Transport Undertakings, having a large fleet of vehicles, for greater efficiency in the