

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Oil and Gas Exploration in West Bengal

10932. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present position of oil and gas exploration in West Bengal ;

(b) what projects have been taken up by the IOC and ONGC with that progress in the last three years;

(c) what is the time target for completion of each of those projects; and

(d) what are the prospects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Currently five seismic parties and one gravity magnetic party are in operation in West Bengal. Besides one well (Bodra-2) is under drilling.

(b) IOC is not concerned with oil exploration work. In West Bengal the ONGC have completed 2574 Standard line kms and 147 line kms. of seismic work during the last three field seasons namely 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82. Besides, the Commission have completed six wells namely, Radha, Diamond Harbour, Abhay, Bishnupur, Naldaha and Jaguli during the last three years namely, 1980-81 to 1982-83. Bodra-2 well spudded in on 30.1.83, has been drilled to 2402 metres as on 15.4.1983.

(c) Time schedule fixed for 3000 line kms. of seismic survey is 3 years. The time schedule for drilling of different exploratory wells ranges from 150 to 525 days.

(d) The prospects can be determined on the basis of the results of the seismic surveys and exploratory drilling thereafter.

Change in Registration System of Newspapers

10933. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a demand of a change in the registration system of newspapers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No specific suggestion has been received in this regard by the Registrar of Newspapers for India. The Second Press Commission has, however, made certain recommendations having a bearing on the subject. These recommendations have been considered in detail, but no final decision has been taken as yet.

Assessment regarding Cost Production By Paradeep Fertiliser Plant

10934. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the cost and the annual production capacity of the Paradeep Phosphatic Fertilizer plant ;

(b) the total area of land acquired by Government for the Plant area;

(c) the amount so far given as compensation to the land owners whose land has been acquired; and

(d) the details of the employment potential and the expected time of the commercial production of this fertiliser plant ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The Paradeep Fertilizer Project, with an annual capacity of 6.52 lakh tonnes of Di-Ammonium Phosphate, was approved by Government in January 1982 at an estimated cost of Rs. 183.64 crores.