

Discovery of Oil in Krishna-Godavari Basins

137. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil in the off-shore wells and the presence of High-pressure gas in an on-shore well in the Krishna-Godavari basin has been discovered ;

(b) if so, steps being taken to explore it and drilling in the east coast ;

(c) whether any other part of the country has been surveyed to find out oil and gas during the years 1982 and 1983 ; and

(d) if so, the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Exploration in the Krishna-Godavari Basin has resulted in discovery of oil in two offshore wells and high pressure gas in an onshore well in Razole.

(b) Following these discoveries, the structural and stratigraphic data is being examined and additional wells are being drilled by ONGC to undertake delineation of these pools. Besides the Krishna-Godavari Basin, exploration in the East Coast is being carried out by the ONGC in the Cauvery Basin and the Bengal Basin and by Oil India Limited in the Mahanadi Basin.

(c) ONGC and Oil India have carried out extensive survey work in Bombay Offshore areas, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himalayan Foothills, Ganga Basin, Assam, Tripura, Andaman Offshore and Mahanadi Basin.

(d) As a result of these surveys new prospects have been mapped and will be taken up for drilling as per the exploration programme of ONGC and OIL.

Supply of Natural Gas from Soviet Central Asia

138. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the visit of the Minister of Commerce to the Soviet Union in the second week of September, 1983, the Chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee, mooted the proposal/idea of supplying India natural gas from Soviet Central Asia, by laying pipelines through intermediate countries to make India an energy surplus country ; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) During the visit of Minister of Commerce to the Soviet Union in the second week of September, 1983 the Chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee stated that at present USSR was exporting natural gas to Western Europe and there were possibilities of diverting gas produced in USSR from the Central Asian Region to India. In this connection he mentioned that USSR could even consider constructing a gas pipeline from the Soviet Union to India if requirements of natural gas are identified on the Indian side.

(b) Further details will have to be worked out after due examination of the suggestion.

Decisions taken at World Energy Conference held in New Delhi in September, 1983

139. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Energy Conference held in New Delhi in September this year had stressed that Governments should consider oil substitution as a major policy objective and enforce strict monitoring of the progress made in that direction ;

(b) if so, to what extent oil (energy) substitution has progressed in India since 1973 and what further steps are contemplated to be taken during the rest of the Sixth Plan period ; and

(c) what other policy decisions were taken at the WEC meet and what are Governments reactions thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) The Twelfth Congress of the World Energy Conference held in New Delhi in September, 1983 stressed the importance of oil substitution as a policy objective.

(b) The substitution of oil by electricity and coal has been accepted as a major policy objective in India. Stress is being laid on the acceleration of electrification in the Railways, particularly on the high density trunk routes. Attempts are also being made to replace inefficient and obsolete boilers by modern package boilers having higher efficiency. Low temperature carbonisation plants are also being set up. Measures have also been taken to reduce the oil consumption in thermal power stations for the purposes of initial start up and flame stability. Experiments are also being carried out for coal gasification at Ennore Thermal Power Station which will use coal instead of oil for the start up of boiler and flame stability.

(c) The Twelfth Congress of the World Energy Conference held recently at New Delhi deliberated on a wide variety of issues relevant to the energy sector. The general theme of the Conference was Energy-Development-Quality of Life. The deliberations were broadly grouped under four divisions and each division had under it a number of important areas. The four broad divisions were as follows :

Division 1. Innovative Techniques and Technologies for Improved Exploitation and Development of Resources.

Division 2. Resources Availability and Strategic Management of Energy and Economic Resources.

Division 3. Energy and Quality of Life—the Impact of Energy Development on Society.

Division 4. International Collaboration and Contribution to Global Energy Strategy.

There was also detailed deliberation on a number of important areas relevant to energy through Round Tables and Working Groups.

The Congress of the World Energy Conference essentially provides a forum for technical discussion on the important issues relating to Energy. Deliberations at the Congress represent search in the area of finding possible solutions to the energy problems facing the global community.

World Energy Conference-Stagnation in Oil Exploration in Developing Countries

140. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Energy Conference in New Delhi in September this year had pointed to stagnation in the oil exploration efforts in developing countries, despite the fact that 90 per cent of World's proven oil reserves lie in developing countries ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as India is concerned there has been no stagnation in the exploration effort and every effort is made to increase the indigenous production of crude oil. The indigenous production increased from 11.8 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 21.06 million tonnes in 1982-83 which is almost double the production of 1979-80. The production in 1983-84 is expected to be around 26 million tonnes.