

(b) The main reasons for the increase in the rate of growth of the number of job seekers with the Employment Exchanges are attributable to high rate of population growth leading to increase in the labour force, awareness among people to seek wage employment job-opportunities not being commensurate with demand mis-matching of available educational

qualifications, skills and experience with the requirements of specific jobs, etc,

(c) The number of educated job-seekers (Matric and above) who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) during the period 1978-1983 is as under :—

As at the end of		Number in Lakhs
1978	...	64.5
1979	...	73.0
1980	...	81.6
1981	...	90.2
1982	...	97.7
1983	...	108.6(P)

**P—Provisional**

**Namrup Fertilizer Complex**

590. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to discard the first unit of Namrup Fertilizer Complex built at a cost of Rs. 25.26 crores about 16 years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons leading to the proposal for discarding it ; and

(c) the alternative being provided to replace the fertilizer production capacity that would result from discarding the Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

**Joint ventures with Norwegian Oil industry for off-shore oil development**

591. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought joint ventures with the Norwegian Oil Industry for off-shore oil development, particularly off the Eastern Coast ;

(b) if so, the details of the joint ventures and the foreign participation contemplated therein; and

(c) the Norwegian Oil Industry's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) At present there is no proposal to set up a joint venture with the Norwegian Oil Industry for off-shore oil development, particularly off the Eastern Coast. However, the Government