

CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to explore oil resources in Cauvery Basin (Tamilnadu) ; and

(b) whether the survey is likely to be over ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) Oil exploration work in Cauvery basin commenced in 1958 and is still in progress. In addition to surface geological mapping and gravity magnetic surveys in the Cauvery Basin, a large volume of reflection and refraction seismic surveys has been conducted and these surveys are continuing. Electrical prospecting work has also been undertaken. 27 shallow wells and 10 structural wells have been drilled for obtaining subsurface geological information. 13 deep exploratory wells have been drilled to test Oil and gas potentialities of the basin.

(b) Exploratory surveys and drilling are envisaged for the Fourth Plan period. Continuation of exploratory activities beyond this period would depend upon the results obtained during this period.

#### Centre-State Financial Relations

1893. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in recent years the States' responsibilities had grown far out of proportion to their revenues and that this has created serious difficulties for the States in discharging their responsibilities ;

(b) whether Centre has any proposal to modify the procedures, institutions and concepts for the management of Centre-State relationship with a view to provide more financial resources to the States ; and

(c) if so, the contents thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (c). While it is true that the growth of expenditure in certain States in recent years has exceeded the growth of their revenues, this cannot by itself lead to

any general inference that the State Governments do not have adequate powers to raise resources for meeting their responsibilities.

The existing constitutional framework is sufficiently flexible and provides full scope for the consideration and periodical review of all aspects of financial relations between the Union and the States including the sharing of financial resources between the Centre and the State Governments.

#### Taking over Import of Lubricating Oils

1894. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to take over the import of lubricating oils, through the Indian Oil Corporation ; and

(b) if so, the outline thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) and (b). With effect from 1-5-71, the import of base lubricating oils in bulk for the deficit grades has been canalised through the Indian Oil Corporation. The import of various stocks required for blending of turbine oils and other special types of lubricating oils in bulk as well as specified packed grades of lubrication oils can however, be allowed to others on an *ad hoc* basis, on the merits of each case.

#### देश में निर्मित और विदेशों से क्रय किए गए प्रतिरक्षा संबंधी उपकरण

1895. श्री भागीरथ भंवर : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) किस प्रकार के प्रतिरक्षा सम्बन्धी उपकरण और हथियार देश में ही निर्मित किये जाने लगे हैं ;

(ख) किस प्रकार के प्रतिरक्षा सम्बन्धी उपकरण विदेशों से क्रय किये जा रहे हैं ; और

(ग) क्या बंगला देश में स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम के आरम्भ होने के बाद से विदेशों से कोई युद्ध सामग्री क्रय की गई है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय (रक्षा उत्पादन) में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल) : (क) छोटे हथियार, तोपखाने का सामान, टैंक, वायुयान, जलपोत, इलैक्ट्रॉनिक सामान और संबंधित गोला बारूद देश में ही बनाये जाते हैं।

(ख) और (ग). यह सूचना देना लोकहित में न होगा।

**Long-Term Plan of L.I.C. to meet the Housing Need**

1896. SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation propose to play a leading role in formulating and executing a long-term plan to meet the housing needs on national scale ;

(b) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has suggested to Government to set up a Development Fund to help the Corporation to undertake the development activities and to serve policy-holder ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) On 31-3-1971, the total contribution of the LIC to housing development in India stood at Rs. 301 crores which, in relation to its total investments, is substantial. A major part of the housing finance is provided by way of loans to States Governments and Cooperative Housing Societies. The LIC has also undertaken the construction of a township near the city of Bombay. In view of its role in housing finance, the LIC recently sponsored a seminar on reduction in housing costs to discuss means for more effective use being made of housing finance.

(b) No, Sir. It is, however, understood that the matter is still at the proposal stage with the Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

**Amount spent for purchasing and repairs of Jumbo Aircrafts**

1897. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL

AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money spent by Government so far for buying Jumbo Aircrafts ;

(b) whether these aircrafts often have mechanical troubles ; and

(c) the amount spent so far on their repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) The purchase of these aircraft is being financed by Air-India mostly from loans negotiated abroad. The amount of loan drawn and utilised up to 1-11-1971 was \$72.738 million (Rs. 54.55 crores).

(b) All new types of aircraft have some initial problems, but these are being satisfactorily dealt with.

(c) The information is not readily available.

**Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe working in Marketing Division of I.O.C.**

1898. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes working in the Marketing Division of the Indian Oil Corporation ;

(b) the number of such Officers promoted during the last three years and the percentage of their number in this Division ;

(c) if no Officer belonging to the Scheduled Caste/Tribe has been promoted during the last three years while working in the Marketing Division of Indian Oil Corporation, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the criteria for promotion and whether Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates are given any relaxation in the matter of qualifications for promotion ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) Eight.