

started shouting slogans besides demanding that the Railway Minister should come out and address them.

At 14.15 hrs., when the meeting was over, the Railway Minister requested the demonstrators over the megaphone to send a few of their representatives to have a discussion with him. The demonstrators refused to do so and demanded that the Railway Minister should come out and address them.

Their behaviour having become unruly, the Police tried to clear a passage for the participants of the meeting. Thereupon the mob became violent and pelted stones etc. resulting in injuries to seven persons including 2 M.L.As and 1 M.P.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7247 on 17th April, 1973.

Delivery of Drilling Platform by Japanese Firm

8005. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state by what time the Drilling platform ordered from Japanese firm, Mitsubishi, is likely to be actually delivered and reach Bombay High?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): The platform was delivered to the ONGC on 31st March, 1973. It is now on its way to India and is expected to arrive in the drilling area off Bombay in the second half of May 1973.

Utilisation of Natural Gas in Assam and Gujarat

8006. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Natural Gas in oil fields in Assam and Gujarat is being wasted by continuous burning;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry had any proposal in consultation with the

Ministry of Irrigation and Power for utilizing this natural gas for production of power as is done in many foreign countries; and

(c) whether this natural gas can be used also for the purpose of making other chemical by-products and if so, whether Government have any project therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) A certain portion of natural gas, which is largely of low pressure, is being flared.

(b) Natural gas is already being utilized for power generation by the Gujarat and Assam State Electricity Boards.

(c) Natural gas is also being utilized as feed stock for production of Fertilizers at Baroda in Gujarat and at Namrup in Assam. Some quantity of gas has also been contracted for production of Fertilizers in a plant which is under construction at Kalol in Gujarat. The available associated gas is not sufficient to sustain a viable petro-chemical manufacturing unit.

Agreement of I.O.C. with M/s. Nagpal Ambadi Petro-Chemical Refining Ltd. at Manali (Madras) for meeting feed-stock requirements

8007. SHRI V. MAYAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has entered into a formal agreement with M/s. Nagpal Ambadi Petro-Chemical Refining Limited at Manali, Madras, for meeting the feedstock requirements of this company; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No formal agreement has been entered into by IOC with M/s. Nagpal Ambadi Petro-Chemical Refining Ltd.