

their economic working and the betterment of production are taken into consideration. Inter-company investments are not permitted where there is a reasonable suspicion that they are prompted by speculative or malafide purposes.

Establishment of a New Undertaking for Manufacture of Caustic Soda by Aluminium Corporation Limited

9277. SHRI P. GANGADEB Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

whether any proposals are made by the Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Limited for establishing a new undertaking for the manufacture of caustic soda at Dudhi, Mirzapur District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): M/s Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Ltd., Bombay had applied in June, 1971 for setting up a new plant for manufacture of 26,000 tonnes/annum of caustic soda at Dudhi in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The application has been rejected.

Drilling Oil by Foreign Powers from Bombay High

9278. SHRI B. V. NAIK Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether foreign powers are forbidden from drilling oil in Bombay High; and

(b) whether the sea-beds controversy has any immediate relevance to this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Agitation by Indian Oil Employees Union of Eastern Branch

9279. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Employees' Union, Eastern Branch had initiated a relay hunger-strike from 25th March to 2nd April, 1974 at Bhubaneswar, Gauhati, Silliguri and Calcutta;

(b) whether the Union has demanded a high level Enquiry Commission into the affairs of the Corporation regarding drums containing water instead of oil, corruption, exorbitant over-time payments, and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). The Indian Oil Employees' Union has been submitting various demands from time to time and has also been reporting cases of irregularities, corruption and other malpractices in the working of the Eastern Branch. Cases of drums containing water instead of oil, overtime payments etc. have also been reported by the Union. It had also asked for setting up a commission of inquiry into the allegations of rampant corruption by the management. Go-slow agitation and relay hunger strike from March 25 was not however specifically against any particular demand but in general for settlement of all outstanding demands.

(c) All such cases reported by the union have been investigated by the I.O.C. and corrective action has also been taken. Agitation by the Union was also withdrawn from 2nd April 1974.