

Purchase of Seismic Ship 'Awanweshak' by O & NGC

8059. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has purchased a fully equipped seismic ship "Awanweshak" for doing seismic surveys;

(b) whether this will be the first of its kind to be owned by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Yes Sir. The name of the ship is M. V. ANWESHAK.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The survey ship has been purchased by the ONGC from M/s. Seismic Exploration International, S.A., at a cost of Rs. 3 crores approximately. It is expected to arrive in India by June, 1975 and will commence geophysical operations in Indian waters by July, 1975. The vessel is equipped with gravity, magnetic and digital seismic instruments and will undertake gravity, magnetic and seismic surveys simultaneously. The ship is also equipped with satellite navigation system.

Production at Gorakhpur Fertilizer Factory

8060. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Factory achieved an all time high monthly record-production of 17,258 tonnes of urea during January, 1975 during its operation of seven years;

(b) if so, the reasons for this increased production;

(c) whether in coming month it is expected to have an improved production level;

(d) whether along with the increased production of urea, the production of Nitrogen has also increased; and

(e) whether after the completion of expansion project by the end of 1975, the production target of Nitrogen will be doubled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). The increase in urea production during January 1975 was mainly due to the plant receiving adequate and stable power supply during the month. This performance could not however be maintained during February and March 1975 due to a 50 per cent power cut imposed by the State Electricity Board and the power interruptions. The plant is capable of operating at or near rated capacity provided adequate and stable power supply is assured.

(d) Each tonne of urea contains 46 per cent nitrogen; hence, with an increase in urea production, there was a corresponding increase in nitrogen production as well.

(e) After the implementation of the expansion scheme, the capacity of the plant would go up from the present level of 80,000 tonnes of nitrogen to 131,000 tonnes of nitrogen.

Upgrading of Non-Gazetted Staff on Railways

8061. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 101 on 19th November, 1974 regarding upgradation of posts of officers and class III staff and state:

(a) whether the proposal of upgrading of non-gazetted staff on Railways has been finalised;