

Inspection of the accuracy of the dispensing pumps etc., and also to detect their fraudulent use, if any, by the dealers. This apart, the Inspecting Authorities attend to any complaint with regard to the alleged short-measurement made by the public.

Progress on Oil Exploration

1140 SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the sources identified fit so far for commercial operations for oil exploration;

(b) the broad features of programmes drawn to commence them; and

(c) the additional output resulting thereunder and the estimated unit cost of production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Already several fields in Gujarat and Assam are producing oil on a commercial basis. Further, exploratory drilling carried out in the recent past led to the discovery of commercial deposits in Upper Assam and in Bombay High and very recently off Bassein and in Arunachal Pradesh

(b) Bombay High is expected to be put on production shortly. Amguri, Charali and Berhella structures in Assam will start producing from the year 1977-78. The Bassein structure and the discovery in Arunachal Pradesh would require exploratory-cum-assessment drilling

(c) The total indigenous production of crude oil during current year is expected to be of the order of 83 million tonnes, which will increase to over 14 million tonnes in 1978-79.

The cost of production of oil is related to the location, size and the productivity of the field and ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 per metric tonne in different areas

Activities of Multinational Firms

1141. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational firms are clandestinely indulging in offering bribes and various other types of temptations to Government officials and other individuals to further the prospects of their trade in India; and

(b) whether Government have set up any agency to ascertain and watch the activities of such multinational firms in resorting to bribery and corruption?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Allegations of corruption against Government officials when brought to the notice of the Government are investigated through the existing vigilance machinery in the Centre and States

Alleged Activities of U.S. Firms in India

1142 SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH
RAO:
SHRI N. K. SANGHI:
SHRI SAMAR GUHA:
SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15th February, 1976 under the caption—"Indian officials got pay-offs from U.S. firms";

(b) whether huge amounts of money are alleged to have been transferred by Phillips Petroleum Company of America in favour of

some Indian officials for construction of Phillips facilities in India in violation of the law; and

(c) if so, the facts of the above case and action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) to (c). Government have no information in regard to the facts stated in the news item. According to subsequent press reports Phillips Petroleum Company has denied the charges.

Rail Link between Chandigarh and Rajpura

1143. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been sent by Punjab Government to Railways to provide a rail link between Chandigarh and Rajpura; and

(b) if so, whether the Railways have agreed to the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Necessary surveys are proposed to be carried out shortly at the cost of the Punjab State Government. Further consideration to this project will be given after the surveys are completed and reports thereof are examined from all angles

Modifications in Bharat Refineries for Refining of Bombay High Crude

1144. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state: the total cost involved in modifications and changes being made in the Bharat Refineries for refining the Bombay High Crude?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): The cost involved in modifications and changes

to be made in the Bharat Refineries for refining Bombay High Crude is estimated at Rs. 200 lakhs to be incurred in three stages. The first stage estimated to cost Rs. 90 lakhs is under implementation. The essentiality of incurring expenditure in stages 2 and 3 is under consideration.

Production of Nitrogenous Fertilizers

1145. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country would go up this year;

(b) if so, whether there will still be a marginal import of nitrogenous fertilizers to meet the country's need of nitrogenous fertilizers; and

(c) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The current year (1975-76) is expected to end with a production of about 15.3 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, as against 11.85 lakh tonnes during 1974-75. The production target for the next year (1976-77) is currently estimated at 18.5 lakh tonnes of nitrogen

(b) and (c). The total availability of nitrogen in the country, taking into account the expected production and the available stocks, would be somewhat short of the estimated level of consumption during the year, for which imports to the extent necessary would be organised

Production of Fertilizers during 1975-76

1146. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of fertilizers in the country has gone up during 1975-76;