

formed some nine years ago is continually incurring losses;

(b) whether in spite of heavy expenditure the research work in this Corporation is very inadequate; and

(c) whether any Reviewing Committee has been set up to make an overall survey of the problems and to suggest steps to streamline its working?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes.

(b) The Corporation is not intended to, nor does it carry out any research work; it is concerned only with the development and exploitation of the results of researches, carried out in research organisations, etc., Governmental and private.

(c) Yes.

Shortage of Raw Spirit

*519. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hamsda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of industries are suffering from want of raw spirit;

(b) whether West Bengal is the worst affected;

(c) the steps being taken to meet the shortage at present; and

(d) for how long this shortage will continue?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Hamayun Kabir):

(a) and (b). Owing to the unexpected poor sugar-cane crop this year, the production and supply of alcohol has fallen short of the demand of the alcohol-based industries and Government are aware of the difficulties of alcohol-based industries in West Bengal.

(c) and (d). All export of molasses and alcohol have been stopped. The minimum essential requirements of all States have been assessed in close consultation with the State authorities concerned and quotas of alcohol have been fixed and placed at the disposal of each State for allocation to their consumers according to priorities fixed by them. The position is expected to improve during the current sugar cane crushing season.

Oil in Upper Assam

Shri P. C. Borooah:
*520. Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration of oil resources in Doom Dooma area in Upper Assam which was suspended earlier has since been resumed;

(b) if so, the success so far attained in that direction; and

(c) the latest estimate of the oil reserves in that area made on the basis of the results of exploration so far?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Hamayun Kabir):

(a) Seismic Survey operations were resumed in September 1963.

(b) Results obtained from the Seismic Survey have enabled Oil India to locate sites for two test wells.

(c) It will be possible to assess the reserves in the area only after an adequate number of wells have been drilled.

Koyali Refinery

*521. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Soviet cell comprising of Indian and Soviet engi-