

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 Hansda:
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-

neers has been set up to design and engineer certain jobs of the Koyali refinery being set up in the public sector with technical and financial assistance from the Soviet Union near Baroda; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

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

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Design Organisation comprising of 7 Soviet specialists and 17 Indian engineers has been set up at Baroda to prepare working drawings for certain jobs like water supply, workshops and telecommunications etc. of Koyali Refinery.

Central Government Employees' Consumer Cooperative Stores

*522. **Shri Vishram Prasad:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of the Central Government Employees' Consumer Cooperative Stores opened in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) whether there is a proposal to open more stores;

(c) how the prices of main consumers' items in these stores compare with general market rates; and

(d) whether employees working under Delhi Administration are also eligible to become members of the Stores?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasakhar): (a) One main store and four branches as indicated below:

Store	Location
Main Store	Raisina Road opposite 'P' Block.
Yojana Bhawan Store	Behind the Yojana Bhawan Building.
Sarojini Nagar Store I	Flat No. XY-21 Sarojini Nagar.
Sarojini Nagar Store II	Flat No. B-245 Sarojini Nagar.
Ramakrishnapuram Store.	Shops Nos. 20 to 23 Sector IV Market.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The general level of prices of main consumers' items in these stores is lower than in the market for goods of comparable quality. The weighing and measurement of articles sold by the stores are also guaranteed.

(d) This question is under consideration.

Explosions in Sindri Fertilizer Factory

*523. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri G. Mohanty:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a series of explosions occurred on or about the 21st October, 1963 in the Synthetic Ammonia section of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory;

(b) if so, the cause of the explosions; and

(c) the extent of damage suffered?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. There was one explosion followed by some minor explosions.

(b) The explosion was due to the failure of the high pressure gas line and sudden emergence of gas under pressure. The failure of the pipe was due to excessive erosion at the bend in the pipe.

(c) There was no damage to equipment or machinery and total financial loss is estimated to be Rs. 6.30 lakhs.

University at Belur

*524. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred