

Charan Shukla: (a) In the Ministries and attached offices, there is a ban on fresh recruitment to the posts of peon from the open market. Vacancies in the sanctioned strength in the grade of peon, as on 22-5-1957 can, however, be filled by transfer of surplus employees from one office to another either within the same Ministry (including its attached offices) or between the various Ministries (including their attached offices), provided that the persons appointed are otherwise qualified for holding such posts. There is no ban on the recruitment to other categories of Class IV Staff.

There is no ban on the recruitment of class IV Staff in subordinate offices.

(b) and (c). the requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Naphtha for Petro-Chemical Industries

241. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petro-Chemical Industries were designed to utilise naphtha and other products of Gujarat Oil Refinery with the commissioning of the Refinery;

(b) whether it is a fact that though the Refinery has been commissioned, Petro-Chemical industries have not yet been licenced; and

(c) when Government plan to establish Petro-Chemical industries and how, whether in public or private sector?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) Petro-Chemical industries were originally planned for commissioning in 1968 while the refinery was to be commissioned in three stages much earlier.

(b) This is not strictly correct. A benzene-toluene extraction unit is under erection and is expected to be commissioned by 1968 end. Other industries will also be licensed shortly.

(c) The Aromatics project will be established in the public sector. It is expected to be commissioned in 1970. The naphtha cracker and intermediate manufacturing units will be either in public sector or in joint sector, while the end product units will be in the private sector. These are expected to be established by 1970-1971.

'Price of Natural Gas'

242. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which natural gas is sold to private and public sector in Assam;

(b) the price demanded by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of natural gas sold to private and public sectors in Gujarat; and

(c) the reasons for difference in prices?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) The prices at which the natural gas produced by Oil India Limited in Assam is sold to various consumers are given below:

S No.	Name of Project Authority	Price per 1000 cu metres.
1.	Assam State Electricity Board and Assam Gas Co. (up to 0.79 million cu. metres per day)	Rs. 8.83
2.	Fertilizer Corp. of India (up to 0.227 million cu. metres per day)	Rs. 42.38
3.	Assam Oil Co. (up to 0.227 million cu. metres per day)	Rs. 17.66
4.	Brick Kilns and tea gardens	Rs. 52.97

These are prices ex oil field, i.e. exclusive of transportation to consumer's premises.

The ONG Commission is not selling any natural gas in Assam.

(b) Certain prices as under had been provisionally agreed between the ONG Commission and the consumers:

- (i) Rs. 80.00 per 1,000 cu. metres to Dhuvaran Power House from Cambay Gas field.